



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 85, No. 1 January 2024

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

His mercies never come to an end;

THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;

Great is your faithfulness.

2024

Appalachian Conference
INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

February Retired Ministers' Birthdays

February 6

Rev. Roger Crigger
4024 Black Lick Road
Rural Retreat, VA 24368

February 10

Rev. Ronald Burke
205 Wades Lane
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 85— January 2024— No. 1

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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





The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena



The Christmas season was kicked off for the IPHC with the annual **Harvest Train** at Falcon Children's Home. Many gathered from around the country to be a part of this special day. Falcon Children's Home has been operating for over 100 years and has changed thousands of lives, providing homes for children who, for whatever reason, are unable to live with their parents.

The Harvest Train offering is a special offering taken up every year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Churches and individuals bring monetary gifts and commodities to help with the ministry of the children's home. Women's Ministries from across the nation come together to sponsor the Harvest Train and bring donations that have been collected by the various conferences.

The day begins with a parade throughout the town of Falcon that allows everyone to see what God is doing through this ministry. Children decorate their houses and banners, using a special theme for the year. The banners are voted on by the Women's Ministries Team, and the house that wins gets a trip to Accelerant. The children work very hard to make these banners special. After the parade is over, everyone meets in the JA Culbreth Memorial Auditorium for a special program that is performed by the children, faculty and staff of Falcon Children's Home.

We are always so thankful for those in the Appalachian Conference who participate in Harvest Train. Whether commodities or monetary gifts, all are important and needed. No gift is too great or too small. Over the past few years, we have begun to see the interest to give to Falcon Children's Home grow and it has been exciting to see the numbers increase.



This year we would like to highlight those churches who gave and let you know how much we appreciate your taking time to make a difference in the lives of some very special kids.

Churches/Ministries who gave monetary gifts

Cornersview - \$12,000
Rosenbaum Chapel - \$2,000
Life Changers Christian Center - \$1,020
Liberty Hill - \$850
Women's Ministries - \$500
Merrimac - \$250
Mitchell Chapel - \$200

Commodity gifts

Life Changers Christian Center - \$4,000
Cornersview - \$3,000
Liberty Hill - \$1,500

With cash and commodities, the total giving for the conference this year was \$25,320. This was a great representation of our conference and we appreciate the time and effort put into these offerings.

We encourage all of our churches to participate in Harvest Train. It is definitely a ministry making a difference. A clothing drive, special offering or a donation of any kind is a great way to make a difference in the lives of the children. We are proud of the way that churches are responding.



10 Personal Questions to Help You Start the New Year Well

By Dan Reiland

We are welcoming in a new year. 2024 is here! It contains 365 opportunities to do good, learn and grow, and live authentically with integrity. 2024 brings us 365 days to touch people's lives in the name of Jesus. I hope and pray that your life and ministry will be truly blessed and fruitful in 2024!

One of the best ways to maximize your life and ministry in this new year is to reflect on last year. Reflection is good for the soul. Can you get away for a quiet day or half day this week? Or perhaps simply go to your favorite coffee shop for a couple hours to think about last year to gain insights and inspiration for this year. If quiet reflection is not motivating for you, try it verbally with your spouse or a close friend. The key is to make it enjoyable, not a chore.

Regardless of your wiring, personality, or the amount of time you have for this, investing quality think time to process 2023 will position you for a substantially better 2024. Reflection is good for the soul, but is even better if you act on it. There are three keys to getting the most out of this process.

BE HONEST – Be honest with yourself. Ask a close and trusted friend to “test” your reflections. But, short of that, being authentic with yourself is essential. Don't beat yourself up, but tell yourself the truth.

EXPRESS GRATITUDE – The best disposition for this reflection is gratitude. If you begin by writing a quick list about all that you are thankful for specifically in 2023, the process will be more encouraging and productive.

TAKE ACTION – If you want 2024 to be all it can be, take action. Do something. That's the bottom line. Change and growth. How do you want to be different? Live differently? Lead better? You get to choose.

10 Personal Questions

Allow these questions to serve you as a guide for reflection and identify areas you would choose for growth.

1) Did you make a new friend?

Simple enough, right? Not always. Your life is busy, it's full, and it's difficult to find time to do all that you are currently responsible for. Where would you find time for a new friend? Yet one of the most valuable, enjoyable, growth-oriented, and life-giving things is found in meeting new people and making new friends. Are you where you want to be in this relational area?

2) Did you spend less than you made?

I hope that you did not endure a financial hardship this year that made this one impossible. If so, I pray this year is a fresh new start for you. Otherwise, we know the merit of this question and the wisdom of spending less than you make. The 10-10-80 method is still a great plan. Save 10 percent. Give 10 percent and Live on 80 percent. What changes are needed?

3) Did you pray in a way that your heart is full?

This might be a tough question. But to start, I don't mean it quantitatively. It's not about how much you prayed, (though that can matter), but the results of your prayers. Did you pray in a way that you saw God move? Did your prayers draw you closer to God's heart in 2023? Did you sense the power of the Holy Spirit at work? In what way would you like to see your prayer life become more powerful this year?

4) Did you take good care of your body or focus on your health?

Don't stop reading now. I know this one may feel extra personal, but it's just for you to consider. As someone who ate homemade chocolate chip cookies every night for some thirty years, I have my struggles here! But, it's possible to eat smart and exercise regularly. Don't pick a hard-core fad. Start simple. Celebrate your success, (not with a cookie). And keep going. If you are beginning, even a brisk walk 3-5 times a week can be life changing!

5) Did you learn something new and specific about leadership?

Naming what you learned last year and in what specific way you are a better leader is vitally important. It's possible to lead for an entire year, work hard, read books, listen to podcasts and not learn or practice something new as a leader. Set your sights high for 2024.

6) Did you love your family in a way they feel it?

It doesn't matter if you are a thinking or feeling based person, (Myers Briggs), or if you are an introvert or extrovert. Loving people in a way they receive it and feel it matters. The simple love language guide that Gary Chapman wrote years ago is still a great tool. The 5 are Words of affirmation, Acts of service, Receiving gifts, Quality time, and Physical touch. Do you know which one matches those you love the most?

7) Did you forgive someone who hurt you?

As a pastor, I'm very aware of the hurts that people carry. I hear the stories and understand how hard it can be to forgive. And leaders are by no means exempt from this kind of pain. Nonetheless, the burden from lack of forgiveness is greater than the burden to find the grace to forgive genuinely. You may not be able to forgive fully in an instant, but you can start the process by acknowledging intent and desire to forgive. Then, if your heart is genuine, God will help you get there.

8) Did you finish that one big project?

This is one of the questions that I don't have the response I would like. I had a writing project I wanted to complete last year, but I barely got it started. In addition to the writing goal, I'm focusing on a couple big new leadership development projects and finishing a couple projects at home from last year.

9) Did you focus on positive and forward-moving thoughts?

One of the most healthy and productive disciplines as a leader is staying focused on positive, pure and productive thoughts. It's not as easy as it may seem. From difficult times in general to the fact that the enemy wants to cloud our minds with negative, self-defeating and sinful thoughts, it takes disciplined focus to remain consistently positive.

10) Did you hear God speak clearly to you?

We touched on this in question #3, but where it focused on prayer, this one centers on a specific element of prayer – hearing the voice of God. What was the most impacting thing you heard God say to you in 2023? What is the last thing you heard God say to you in 2023? How did they change you? Listening is core to this practice, followed by joyful obedience.

I hope these practical and personal questions help you have a fantastic New Year!

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



Join the Church Building Legacy



Chris and Alicia Dunlap, along with the pastor and family, in front of the church that needs our help in the Dominican Republic.

In the past 14 years, you, the Appalachian Conference family, have helped fund 11 churches through World Missions (and church plants right here in our region)! These congregations around the world are part of our extended family. This year brings a fresh opportunity to help the Rose of Sharon Church in the Dominican Republic (DR).

The project vision is to partner with Pastor Roselio in the completion of a permanent structure at Rosa de Sharón the 4th.

Pastor Roselio is married to his wife, Yanet, and together they have served in ministry for 24 years. They served in local church leadership through evangelism within the IPHC for 20 years, and four years ago they heard the call of God to pastor a church. Having a heart for vulnerable communities, they moved from the heart of the

city to the outskirts to a new neighborhood called Tierra de Dios (Land of God). This is a "daily wage" small community, on the very northern edge of the city.

Six years ago when this community first began, there were only four families, but now it is a continually growing neighborhood. The community is one of Dominicans and Haitians "sharing everything together as one." The church is currently home to around 46 adults and 75 children.

When the church was planted, it was made to be an iron sheet temporary building. Recently, as God has blessed the church, they have been laying the walls, one concrete brick at a time, for their permanent building. Currently, they have built two of the four exterior walls of the church through God's provision. In addition, the local DR IPHC Conference has done mission outreaches in this community.

The church has a vision to continue building a second floor in the future to use as a school for the undocumented Haitian children in the community. There are families in the community who cannot read or write, and the church hopes to be a bridge in educating the next generation of children who may struggle to receive education.

This is a \$27,000 project. **Can you help this church family have a permanent home?** Direct your giving to #67500P Dominican Republic Ministry Projects.

A joint conference team sponsored by Discipleship Ministries and Missions & Evangelism will travel to the Dominican Republic on July 8-15 to help continue construction of the permanent building. For more information or to be part of this team, contact the conference office. It will be a joy to work with our newly assigned missionaries Chris and Alicia Dunlap on this project.

Revival in India

God used Pastor Shantial to personally raise more than 70 powerful young church planters (men and women) within the last two years, and they have planted more than 220 churches.

Pastor Shantial is a humble servant of God and never demands anything. He is completely sold out for Jesus. He leaves his house every day at 9 AM and returns only after 8 PM. Every day he takes young people along with him and trains them. He goes to new villages where there is no church sharing the gospel. What we are seeing in his ministry is unprecedented. He is a man of prayer. Every morning he gets up at 4 AM and asks God for new souls. He lives in one of the most backward regions of Bihar state and this is a hilly region. Travelling on a motorcycle for hours on these so-called roads, full of rocks and potholes, have taken a heavy load on his health. He had a severe heart issue two years back and had to go through surgery. The doctor has advised him not to travel in such rough conditions but he told him that till his last breath he will continue to do what God has called him for. Shantial is benefitted by the teachings on the Great Commission and I am grateful to Pastor Van and Pastor Jim Eby for their teaching which is bringing fruit. Young men and women are being trained.

Baptisms are happening almost every day and churches are being planted every week. He is continuously raising leaders.

Thank You for praying for us and supporting IPHC North India.

-Rev. Michael John, IPHC WMM Director of North India



There is revival in North India with many souls and churches added to the Kingdom!

Pastors and Mission Directors, plan now on joining in for the
Great Commission Meals, March 11-16!

Let's make Mission ONE our greatest priority in 2024!

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.



Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



DISCIPLESHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOUNDRY: JANUARY 13, 2024 – 9:00 AM

Life Changers Christian Center: Hosts: Pastor Todd & Tammy Porter

BRIDGING OUR MINISTRIES: JANUARY 19 – 21, 2024: REDLAND PHC

ACCELERANT: JANUARY 25 – 28, 2024

GATLINBURG, TN

NATIONAL INSTITUTE of CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: JANUARY 29 – 31, 2024

Dr. Mark Rutland, for Pastors and Local Church Staff
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1100 The First Church Road, Goldsboro, NC
Register @ WWW.PHLEADER.ORG

MINISTERS' CLASS: FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Speaker: Dan Woods – Class: Meeting Expectations
Conducting a good Local Church Council Meeting (and Church Business Meeting).
Implementing a wise and visionary budget (following the Manual, supporting the Conference).
Building effective ministry teams that support each other (Local Church Ministries Council).

THE HUDDLE: FEBRUARY 22 – 24, 2024

Register @ <https://brushfire.com/iphc/events/566591>

NATIONAL INSTITUTE of CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2024

Dr. Mark Rutland, for Pastors and Local Church Staff
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1100 The First Church Road, Goldsboro, NC
Register @ WWW.PHLEADER.ORG

2024 MINISTERS' SUMMIT: FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 1, 2024

NATIONAL INSTITUTE of CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: MARCH 18 - 20, 2024

Dr. Mark Rutland, for Pastors and Local Church Staff
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1100 The First Church Road, Goldsboro, NC
Register @ WWW.PHLEADER.ORG

MINISTERS' CLASS: APRIL 6, 2024

Speaker: Dan Woods – Class: Preaching effectively
Becoming a better preacher (in preparation, presentation and Pentecostal power). Resisting ministry fads
and perpetuating all that is good in our Pentecostal Holiness heritage.

SPRING PRAYER TEACHING AND PRAYER: APRIL 13, 2024 - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

SPEAKER: DR. DOUG SMALL

Appalachian Conference Campgrounds: For more information contact Rev. Donna Hankla, Conference WIN Director

CONFERENCE FINE ARTS & BIBLE QUIZ FESTIVAL: APRIL 19 - 20, 2024

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2024
Guidelines and Registration Forms are available online at <https://appconf.org/junior-team-fine-arts>

INSTITUTE for FAITH & FAMILY PARENTING: MAY 4, 2024

The Initiative for Faith and Family (The-IFF) was created to empower parents and loving caregivers to pass down a vibrant Christ-centered faith to the next generation. The-IFF is designed to inspire, equip, and support families with practical resources to help them in their biblical role of being the primary nurturers of their children's faith.

Because the home is where children and teenagers spend most of their time, their parents' influence is the most crucial.

Jesus states in Luke 18:8 that He will be looking for faith upon His return. Therefore, we desire to be found faithful in helping fulfill this calling by investing in our homes and those diligently leading them.

THE FOUNDRY: MAY 18, 2024

Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship: Hosts: Pastor Wes & Kim Galford

CONNECT YOUNG ADULT WEEKEND: MAY 24 - 26, 2024

CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING: JUNE 11 – 14, 2024

June 11: Youth Emphasis – Pastor Sharo

CAMP MARANATHA 2024 'SURRENDER'

JUNE 17 – 21, 2024 EXTREME TEEN WEEK: Ages 13 - 17

JUNE 24 - 28, 2024: DESTINY WEEK: Ages 10 -12

JUNE 30 - JULY 3, 2024: ADVENTURE QUEST WEEK: Ages 7 - 9

MISSION TRIP: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: JULY 8 – 15, 2024

YOUTH QUEST: JULY 18 – 21, 2024

Emmanuel University, Franklin Springs, GA

THE FOUNDRY: AUGUST 24, 2024

Appalachian Conference Campgrounds: Hosts: Larry & Gloria Meadors

NATIONAL D. M. SUMMIT: SEPTEMBER 16 – 20, 2024

DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 12, 2024

SPONSORED BY DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE

MINISTERS' CLASS: OCTOBER 19, 2024

Speaker: Dan Woods – Class: The Perseverance of the Good Minister of Jesus Christ

A close look at the habits and relationships of steadfast ministers (including the 3 types of seeds we all have).

INSTITUTE for FAITH & FAMILY PARENTING: OCTOBER 19, 2024

The Initiative for Faith and Family (The-IFF) was created to empower parents and loving caregivers to pass down a vibrant Christ-centered faith to the next generation. The-IFF is designed to inspire, equip, and support families with practical resources to help them in their biblical role of being the primary nurturers of their children's faith.

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FALL YOUTH RETREAT: RECONNECT: NOVEMBER 1 – 3, 2024

Reconnect with God and friends. A weekend of Discipleship and fun.

MINISTERS' CLASS: NOVEMBER 23, 2024

Speaker: Dan Woods – Class: Meeting Family Needs

Conducting a good wedding, funeral and other important family events.

Conducting good pastoral counseling and conflict resolution in the church.



DISCIPLESHIP EVENTS

GIRLS' MINISTRIES

GIRLS' MINISTRIES RETREAT: AUGUST 2 – 4, 2024

CAMP MARANATHA, APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMPGROUNDS

BOYS' MINISTRIES

PINEWOOD DERBY: MAY 18, 2024

CAMP MARANATHA, APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMP GROUNDS

MEN'S & BOYS' MINISTRIES EMPHASIS SUNDAY: JUNE 16, 2024

We encourage each local church to recognize the value, contribution and need for an active ministry to Men and Boys and honor their vital role in the church.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S & GIRLS' MINISTRIES EMPHASIS SUNDAY: MARCH 10, 2024

We encourage each local church to recognize the value, contribution and need for an active ministry to Women and Girls and honor their vital role in the church.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES VIRTUAL EVENT: MARCH 10, 2024

Information will be made available at a later date.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FALL CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 8, 2024

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE CAMPGROUNDS

MEN'S MINISTRIES

MEN'S MINISTRIES MASTER SEED TIME GOLF TOURNAMENT: MAY 18, 2024

LOCATION TBD

MEN'S & BOYS' MINISTRIES EMPHASIS SUNDAY: JUNE 16, 2024

We encourage each local church to recognize the value, contribution and need for an active ministry to Men and Boys and honor their vital role in the church.

MEN'S MINISTRIES ALTERNATIVE TO ABORTION MINISTRIES GOLF TOURNAMENT: AUGUST 23, 2024

LOCATION TBD

SENIOR MINISTRIES

THE GATHERING: MARCH 15 – 17, 2024

A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WITH SENIOR ADULTS HOSTED BY DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES HELD IN FALCON, NC!

ENCORE SENIOR MINISTRIES SPRING TRIP: APRIL 22- 24, 2024

LANCASTER, PA: SIGHT & SOUND

ENCORE SENIOR MINISTRIES PICNIC: SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

CLAYTOR LAKE STATE PARK

ENCORE SENIOR MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP: DECEMBER 2 – 5, 2024

TENTATIVE LOCATION : NASHVILLE, TN

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS:

LOOKING FOR YOUTH GROUPS IN
GATLINBURG, TN – January 25 – 28, 2024!!!



IPHC Student Ministries Huddle | EAST 2024

ENGAGE. EQUIP. ENCOURAGE.

Thursday, Feb 22, 2024 3:00 PM - Saturday, Feb 24, 2024 12:00 PM EST

The HUDDLE | EAST - The Westin Poinsett, Greenville, SC

A poster for "THE HUDDLE" event. The background is a green-tinted photo of a crowd of people. In the center, there is a white rectangular box containing the text "THE HUDDLE" in large, bold, green letters. Below this, in smaller green letters, are "IPHC students'" and "IPHC kids'", each with "DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES" underneath. To the left of the central box, the text "WEST Oklahoma City February 9-10" is written in white. To the right, "EAST Greenville, SC February 22-24" is written in white. At the bottom, a dark green banner contains the text "A training event for Student and Children's Ministry leaders. Early-Bird registration for both events will open November 2023. at IPHC.ORG/DISCIPLESHIP" in white.

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
applaconfmrr@gmail.com

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



SAVE THE DATES:



**Appalachian
Conference Girls'
Ministries Retreat**

AUGUST 2 – 4, 2024



Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



New finds this month

KOZ connects men's ministry
to mentor boys

The Message

Young archers hit their
targets in Hillsville, VA

How to Connect

Check out a short KOZ video
on how the men and boys of
your church can get started

Intentional Ministry in 2024

Kids Outdoor Zone (KOZ): A ministry for the men of the church.

Their Mission: Fatherless boys and Father/Son outdoors ministry.



Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV): *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

With social assaults on masculinity, sexual identity and religious freedoms, our young men and boys struggle with confidence in who they are and their Christian purpose more now than ever.

Reflecting on over 25 years in youth ministry, a decade of leadership within The Boy Scouts of America and several years in Men's Ministries, I understand my calling and passion are to simply share and pass on the faith and integrity of my upbringing. We lived only minutes from my grandfathers, who both raised large families in the traditional community of my beloved Appalachian

For more information, feel free to reach out to:

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rfredericks58@aol.com

Mountains. Dad worked in construction and was purposeful in sharing his knowledge of the trade and awesome adventures in the outdoors. But more importantly, the men in my young life intentionally built my confidence in who I was, instilled integrity and exemplified a relentless relationship with Jesus Christ. I pray that I have sufficiently been that example for both my sons, as well as the young men in my community and church. I am excited to continue this mission with the help of Kids Outdoor Zone. KOZ works through the men of the local church and uses outdoor adventures to mentor and share the love of Jesus Christ. It simply changes the lives of both the men and boys alike.

I encourage you to consider the KOZ ministry and to be intentional in reaching boys and men in your congregation. Be prepared for new and often disconnected men in your church to step up and become involved with a truly needed and meaningful ministry!

Steve

Along with other resources, like Royal Rangers, you can find a link to KOZ on the IPHC.org website under Recommended Resources Boys.

<https://iphc.org/discipleship/boys/>

<https://iphc.org/discipleship/recommended-resources-boys/>

<https://royalrangers.com/start>

<https://www.kidsoutdoorzone.com/about/#faq>

Check out this story!



<https://vimeo.com/391514686> (Please copy and paste link to see video.)



The Message by Rick Magee and Steve Winesett

Excitement filled the air in Hillsville, VA, as the boys began to be dropped off. It was early on the second Saturday of October in Southwest Virginia and the men leading the boys were already at the church anticipating bruised arms, broken arrows, mangled targets, and helping boys with aiming bows and arrows they are going to shoot. A local professional archer had shared several youth bows and 3D archery targets. Moms were all smiles as the overly excited adolescent gangly legs clamored out of the minivans and pickup trucks. Once everyone arrived, the men organized the boys and the equipment and headed to the shelter.

This is how a Kids Outdoor Zone (KOZ) Saturday morning starts. Men and boys seeking adventure and outdoor fun. Once they arrived at the event, our October event on archery, one of the men led everyone in a biblical devotion and conversation related to archery. If I asked, the KOZ kids could respond with the connection taught from Genesis 21:20 (NIV), *"God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and*

became an archer." We let the boys know how much they are loved and cared for by the men standing with them and ultimately by God Himself. We've found that this is exactly what a boy needs; adventure, purpose, meaning and the ultimate playground...the outdoors.

If you aren't aware, we are in a crisis in our country today. Boys in our culture are struggling. What is their role? What does a noble man look like? What does honor look like? What message in our culture are they to believe? Did you know some statistics show that boys average spending over 70 hours each week in front of electronics and less than 40 minutes each week outdoors? The average age of a licensed hunter or fisherman is over 55 years old! When we add these astonishing averages to the fatherless statistics, the crisis becomes staggering. Almost one-half of the boys growing up in America today will wake up in a fatherless home. Eighty-five percent of youth in juvenile detention facilities are from fatherless homes.

KOZ believes the answers to these overwhelming problems are found in two places: the church and the outdoors. KOZ trains and equips men in local churches to use the outdoors to create adventures (one Saturday morning each month) that speak to the boys' hearts. The different month's adventures include fishing, hunting, survival, hiking, swimming, shooting, archery and camping. In addition, the men use these Saturdays to mentor the boys in skill development, behavior training and have conversations by the creek or at the shooting range that turn into strategic moments of encouragement, counsel and yes – the gospel.

At the end of every KOZ morning we have the boys sit by themselves to contemplate and pray. Each boy takes a 5 x 7 index card and pencil with them and writes down their thoughts of the day and things they'd like for us to pray for. You can only imagine what's been written on these cards, but here's a few examples. "I finally feel like I'm not alone"; "My mom is dead, my dad is in jail, my grandmother is sick, I'm losing hope"; "I learned how to fish today"; "I learned how to skin and process a deer today – deer meat tastes awesome"; "No one loves me like Mr. Tommy." Somehow, the outdoors and strong male godly leadership unlocks these boys' hearts, and they pull down their false bravado to show us who they really are...broken and hurting little boys with real questions that need godly men to answer.

If KOZ is something you would be interested in checking out for your church, go to our website or give us a call. We average starting a group somewhere in the country every 2 weeks. Your church could be next! The boys in your neighborhood are waiting for someone...



Rick Magee, Chief of Operations
Kids Outdoor Zone - "No Kid Left Inside"
www.kidsoutdoorzone.com

How to Connect

Start KOZ at Your Church



Check out this short introductory YouTube video from T. J. Greaney, Founder of KOZ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fY5piD_2YE&t=3s

To get started, KOZ will provide training for the men in your group. Simply visit their website and click on the START A GROUP button on the home page. Read through the process of What is KOZ, Registration, pay the annual fee, set up your Training, and Register the trained leaders. Then you will be sent the monthly curriculum to be used each event. <https://vimeo.com/125572798> (Please copy and paste link to see video.)





Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



"2023 - A Year to Remember"

As we step into a new year, I wanted to take the time to reflect on Women's Ministries in 2023.

The Restoration Conference, hosted by Harbor of Hope In Christiansburg, was a success with a powerful word brought by Reverend Veronica McGlothlin.

As the ladies came together in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the Gather Women's Conference, Pastor Beth Stephens-Johnson preached with a powerful anointing to a crowded room. Our women left refreshed and many were set free from burdens that had held them in bondage for years!

2023 was a year of growth for women's ministries around the Appalachian Conference. Whether it was starting up a new ministry or revamping a ministry, making relationships and developing community among the ladies became the focus for many.

Overall, Women's Ministries is growing in leaps and bounds. I am believing that 2024 will find our ladies continuing to develop healthy, growing ministries that will make Kingdom impact for generations to come.

I would like to personally thank our Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries for your support and prayers. Together, with your help, we can make 2024 the best year yet!

Spring Conference with
Veronica McGlothlin





"2023 - A Year to Remember"

*Fall Conference with
Beth Stephens-Johnson*





PEACE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

Peace is a precious gift bestowed upon us by God. It is a gift that should be cherished. It is a gift that should be highly regarded. It is a gift that should be guarded. The peace of God is beyond the value of money.

Such peace cannot be bought at Walmart. It cannot be purchased with on-line shopping. Peace is a heavenly gift, to be received by those who pursue it.

“Peace I leave with you: My (perfect) peace I give to you: not as the world gives do I give you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. (Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge)” (John 14:27). (The Amplified Study Bible)

NOT EVERYONE

The first Christmas teaches us much about PEACE. Angels appeared to the shepherds and announced the birth of King Jesus! They also had a message about PEACE.

“Glory to God in the highest (heaven), and on earth peace among men with whom He is well-pleased” ((Luke 2:14).

Do not overlook the phrase that describes those who qualify for His Peace! Peace is for those with whom He is well-pleased!

POWER NOT PEACE

Not everyone wants peace. Some crave POWER over PEACE. King Herod was such an example. When the wise men informed the king about the birth of Jesus, he was troubled in his heart. He asked the wise men to return to him after they found the baby.

He said that he wanted to worship the baby. However, in his heart, he desired to kill the baby. Indeed, when the wise men did not return to him, he killed all the baby boys age two and under in Bethlehem. (Matthew 2:16)

Today, many leaders are like King Herod. They climb the corporate ladder by evil means. They crave power, and abuse power. They create chaos and havoc for the purpose of disrupting the environment.

POWER is what they pursue, not PEACE!

OPEN THE DOOR IN 2024

This theme for the year 2024 is made in reference to prayer. The source of this message is PROJECT PRAY, with Dr. P. Douglas Small, President.

OPEN THE DOOR for prayer on the individual level. Release sounds and aromas of precious prayer from your prayer closets, every day!

PEACE must start with the individual. Each person is encouraged to pray for peace for themselves and their families.

PEACE must come into the churches. In the year 2024, churches are encouraged to open their doors for prayer. Let the people come and pray. Let them pray alone. Let them pray with others. OPEN THE DOORS of the church for prayer in 2024!

The Apostle Paul urged the church to pray for an OPEN DOOR. *“At the same time pray for us, too, that God will OPEN A DOOR (of opportunity) to us for the word, to proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have been imprisoned” (Colossians 4:3).*

QUESTION

Will you pursue PEACE in the year 2024? Will sounds of prayer and scents of prayer be released from your prayer closet? Your prayers can open doors for yourself, your family, and your church!

AMERICA'S PRAYER MEETING MOVEMENT

NATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER

Join the 21 Days of Prayer, January 1-21, 2024.

Join in the prayer calls, as you are able.

The time each night is 8:30 p.m.

Phone number: 518-318-7117

Sponsored by PROJECT PRAY



January Calendar

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