



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 84, No. 9 October 2023

## PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

October 8, 2023



*"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor,  
especially those who labor in the word and doctrine."*

1 Timothy 5:17



## NOVEMBER RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

### **November 6**

Rev. Jerry Sloss  
475 Dee Dee Drive  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

### **November 8**

Rev. Jerry Blevins  
196 Talon Drive  
Moravian Falls, NC 28654

### **November 30**

Rev. Phillip Martin  
1443 Oilwell Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060



## Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 84— October 2023— No. 9

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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



## Quadrennial Conference: A Bright Outlook for the Future

In a gathering characterized by passion and purpose, 346 delegates converged at the Appalachian Conference Quadrennial Conference. This momentous event was marked by vigorous debates and consequential decisions that are poised to shape the future of the conference. With Bishop Tommy McGhee, the Executive Director of Discipleship Ministries, as the presiding official, the day yielded substantial outcomes that provide a glimpse into the conference's promising horizon.

One significant decision was the removal of term limits for conference officials. Following spirited debates, the majority recognized this as a means to empower conference delegates to select leaders most qualified for each role, ensuring the conference's dynamism and adaptability.

A prevailing theme throughout the conference was the resolute desire to nurture and advance younger ministers within the conference. Delegates universally acknowledged the importance of affording opportunities for emerging leaders to play substantial roles in shaping the conference's trajectory. This commitment to mentoring and empowering the next generation of clergy received resounding support from all participants.

The conference also rejoiced in the expansion of Hispanic ministry. At a future conference this fall the conference will be licensing three Hispanic ministers – Benita Castro, Franklin Polanco Genao, and Gilberto Aguirre Ramirez and ordaining Florian Martinez-Alvarez.

To further exemplify the conference's growth, a commendable group of ministers received their licenses and ordinations. Cameron Caldwell, Clifford Gibson, Jeremiah Light, Lena Richmond, and Stellisha Vance were granted ministerial licenses, while C.J. Cole, Joshua Gladson, Joyce A. Greer, Lawrence Hayes, Rocky Huff, and Richard Sizemore were ordained to Gospel ministry in the Appalachian Conference of the IPHC.

In terms of leadership, the conference upheld stability by reelecting Rev. Preston Mathena as Superintendent, Rev. Frank Neff as Secretary/Treasurer, and Rev. Mrs. Wanda Myers to the Executive Council. Rev. Larry Meadors advanced from Council Member to Assistant



Superintendent. Additionally, the introduction of new board members, Rev. Ron Fredericks, Rev. Todd Porter, and Rev. C.J. Cole, infused a sense of renewal into the leadership ranks.

One of the most heartening aspects of the conference was the overwhelming engagement and enthusiasm displayed by the membership. A palpable sense of purpose and unity prevailed, and there was no trace of apathy among attendees. The engagement of the membership was not only acknowledged but celebrated as a positive sign of a vibrant faith community.

In summation, the Quadrennial Conference of the Appalachian Conference marked a pivotal moment, showcasing a hopeful path forward. With a steadfast focus on the future and a commitment to nurturing young leadership, the conference is poised for sustained growth and prosperity.

## **NEWLY ELECTED APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**



Left to right: Wanda Myers, board member; Larry Meadors, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Porter, board member; Preston Mathena, Superintendent; C.J. Cole, board member; Frank Neff, Secretary-Treasurer; Ron Fredericks, board member

# The Cost of Preaching Truth

By Brady Boyd

*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths” 2 Timothy 4:2-4.*

There will come a time when many people will no longer desire biblical truth in our churches. They will want to hear their opinions affirmed by their pastor rather than be challenged to change them. Paul told Timothy that people would not put up with sound doctrine, especially if that doctrine is contradictory to their desires.

As pastors, we have a choice to make – tell people what they want to hear or tell people what they need to hear. Paul says there will be plenty of teachers willing to win the crowds, but far fewer who will stand with a prophetic voice and point people toward a narrow, but beautiful path of repentance, humility and generosity. This is not a new dilemma. The church needs constant reform, because we often find it entangled with heresies, divisions and corruption. Today, we’re faced with a cacophony of political and social opinions that are constantly reinforced by non-stop social media and cable news. The shepherd’s voice is one of hundreds attempting to beak through the fog, but many are attending church in-person less than ever. Our people are listening to pundits, not pastors, to speech rarely steeped in prayer and scripture.

As result, we have crowds wandering from voice to voice, looking for agreement and affirmation, but rejecting costly discipleship. They have tribal preferences but little community inside the safety of the congregation. Paul says we must correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. He’s reminding us to think long-term, to do the holy work of preaching and teaching without stumbling from the criticism that’s sure to follow. We’re not called to be popular, but we’re called to be faithful.

In the last few weeks, I’ve had scores of pastors confess they’re discouraged, exhausted and ready to quit. The amount of criticism and vitriol has worn down their souls and caused them to doubt if people are really hungry to learn and grow. One pastor told me he’s working harder each week to prepare a meal no one wants to eat. Many have lost close friends and long-time members because they have not championed some issue with enough fervor.

We’re made a commitment to contact one another more often and keep each other encouraged. We’ve decided to point people to Christ and stay centered on the primary mission. We’ll speak up when we see injustice but not get mired down in petty partisanship. It will cost us congregants, givers, and volunteers and that makes all of us sad.

In the end, though, we’re called to shepherd our people and to feed the flock that’s been assigned to us. We have a responsibility to sound doctrine, to love our people and to keep our hearts pure. It will be costly, but there’s no other path to follow.

*Brady Boyd is the senior pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. New Life Church has more than 10,000 members and has multiple congregations that meet throughout the Colorado Springs area.*



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# World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



## Global Outreach Offering: Producing Results

Your faithful giving to the Global Outreach Offering (GO) produces results. It sometimes is difficult to measure the eternal results of your financial seed in the GO offering. What is known is that it went around the world sown in various fields of harvest. Specific results that are praiseworthy are the Antioch grants. These grants are requested by missionaries for large capital projects and are directly funded from the GO offering that you have given to.

### **2023 Antioch grants totaling \$482,000!**

**Peru-** Land was purchased in Puerto Maldonado for a church and training center. A conference team recently was at this site, building and ministering.

**Spain-**The church and IPHC Mediterranean regional office in Seville was established.

**Japan-** The first church property owned by IPHC in this country, located just outside Tokyo.

**Israel-** Funding for property for Living Hope IPHC Israel in Haifa. This church also serves as a re-habitation house and ministry.

**Dominican Republic-** Further construction of a conference ministry center. This is where Chris and Alicia Dunlap are assigned now and the site of a future conference team trip.

**Ethiopia-** Finished the construction of church and office in Addis Ababa. This is the IPHC's largest work, with 610 churches and 560,000 members.

**Your help is needed to continue funding these types of projects and all the various ministry that the GO offering does in every area of the world.**

**Please send in your GO offering by November 17.**





**This is Christian Life Center PHC in Niiza, Japan (Tokyo). The Global Outreach Offering has made a \$100,000 down payment, making this the first owned IPHC property in this country.**

**Russell Board reports another \$150,000 is needed.**

## Planters Update

Hope Restoration Ministries is gaining ground in Johnson City. The planters, Loran & Melissa McDaniel, are holding interest meetings to build a core group. Several people have already joined their Bible Study and a new prayer night that starts this month. A surprising open door appeared as they have started a Bible Study for unreached athletes at Milligan University. Please continue to pray for them, for God's favor and anointing in reaching this community for Christ.

**Would you like to connect with the McDaniels? [Pastor@hoperestorationtn.org](mailto:Pastor@hoperestorationtn.org)**





Chris and Alicia Dunlap have accepted a new assignment to the Dominican Republic as WMM missionaries. Pray for them as they transition to this field of ministry.

## Why I Believe Unity is Important

"Unity is imperative. Without it, little can be accomplished for the kingdom of God. Unity can be illustrated as a close athletic team that works together for the end result...victory. Each member understands and helps the other members, and all follow their coach. So also is the church of Jesus Christ in a contest, a contest that has been won with such a dear price. Now it is up to us to pull together in carrying out His will, that we may dwell in His holy presence. We have seen from God's Word that unity is not an impossible dream, but a commandment. Throughout Paul's epistles, the Spirit tells us to be as one. When we disarm the force of disunity, the church marches in victory. How the truth of Psalm 133:1 comes alive in my spirit: *'Behold how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity.'*"

*Larry Meadors: This is an excerpt from a teen talent paper I had written in 1979. It was re-discovered as I was sorting old files. This truth and God's mandate for unity struck me again as even more vital today. I need you and you need me. Together, we need Jesus to reach this world with the gospel.*

# Fall Foundry Seminar:

## Digital Cocaine & Digital Rehab

Conference  
Training Center  
**Monday**  
**October 16**  
**9:30 AM**



We welcome **Brad Huddleston**, an internationally respected speaker, consultant, teacher, and author on important issues such as technology and culture. He has worked with universities, schools, churches, and law enforcement. He has spoken to hundreds of thousands worldwide on the advantages of well-used technology tools and the dangers of the growing trend toward technology addiction.

### Seminar Topics:

*Digital Addiction: What the Neuroscience Shows*

Neuroscience has revealed that brain scans of hard-core video gamers are nearly identical to cocaine addicts. Brain scans of porn addicts show more damage than heroin addicts. Thirty-five percent of victims of cyberbullying scored above the threshold for symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and twenty-nine percent of the teenagers who did cyberbullying also showed signs of PTSD. Research shows that more 35-year-olds play video games than teenagers. Mothers are often more addicted to social media than their daughters. This session explores these issues and more.

### *Does Digital Education Work?*

Globally, most students lost two years of education during the pandemic. Clearly, most digital education was proven ineffective. And the dirty little secret is that it wasn't working before the pandemic either. Where do educational tools fit in? Should pastors use digital Bible study tools when preparing their messages? What about those who are forced to use digital tools in their workplace for hours on end? There are answers to these complex issues. Unless the electricity goes out, we will continue grappling with these issues. Based on research, this session explores best practices when using digital resources in work and education.

### *Digital Rehabilitation: How Long Does It Take?*

South Korea has won the war for digital supremacy globally, but they are paying a heavy price. The government of that small country has opened 400 technology rehabilitation centers. This section explores some of the research surrounding digital addiction and offers strategies and solutions from a scientific and, most importantly, Biblical worldview. God wants His children to be well and fully engaged with Him.

### *Technology vs. Intimacy with God*

1 Corinthians 6:12 says everything is permissible, but we must not be enslaved by anything. Neuroscience has clearly shown over and over that digital technology is highly addictive. Whatever we are addicted to, our emotions follow. In other words, we are highly intimate with the source of our addictions. God has reserved that level of intimacy for Him. There is Good News! God is more than willing to restore our intimacy with Him.



# Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

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



## Discipleship MATTERS

Congratulations to the following churches who received **Life Changing Discipleship Awards** from Discipleship Ministries on Saturday, September 23, at the Quadrennial Conference.

### LIFE CHANGING DISCIPLESHIP AWARDS 2023

#### Life Changing Growth Award

Baker's Chapel PHC  
Bethel PHC  
Buena Vista PHC  
Caldwell PHC  
Faith Temple PHC  
Liberty Hill PHC  
Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship  
Shenandoah PHC  
Tree of Life Ministries  
Trinity Fellowship  
Valley Harvest Ministries  
Voice of Praise Worship Center

Rev. Jim Tunnell  
Rev. Wes Comer  
Rev. Adam Williams  
Rev. Michael Neel  
Rev. Debbie Hutton  
Rev. Josh Graham  
Rev. Wes Galford  
Rev. James A Kite  
Rev. Mike Dodson  
Rev. Tommy Vass  
Rev. Steve Willis  
Rev. N. R. Taylor

Rejeania Archer  
  
Cathy Neel  
Emily Perkins  
Cindy Turner  
  
Brandy Comer  
Don Webb  
Patricia Price

#### Dynamic Growth Award

Hilltop PHC  
New Beginnings Church  
Yukon PHC

Rev. Todd Graham  
Rev. Richard Kingrea  
Rev. Lacy Griffith

Victor McGrady  
Renee Kingrea  
Goldie Griffith

#### Servant Growth Award

Cales Chapel  
Lighthouse Family Ministries  
Merrimac PHC  
Rosenbaum Chapel  
Speedwell PHC  
Valley Christian Ministries

Rev. Wayne Browning  
Rev. Buford Linkous  
Rev. Richard Hall  
Rev. Joseph Hollins  
Rev. Roger Crigger  
Rev. Nancy Lane

Jeffery Linkous

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[chrisestrada.tv](http://chrisestrada.tv)

Pastor Sharo  
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[preachergirltv.com](http://preachergirltv.com)

## concert w/

REND COLLECTIVE  
[rendcollective.com](http://rendcollective.com)

## worship w/

RUSH OF FOOLS  
[rushoffools.com](http://rushoffools.com)

## register online @

[www.accelerantfire.com](http://www.accelerantfire.com)

*\*Artists & Speakers are subject to change*



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# Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



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# Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



## “High on the Mountain”

Women, from California to Pennsylvania, Oklahoma to Texas, came together in Black Mountain, NC, for a weekend of food, fun, fellowship and the presence of the Holy Spirit! Leader's Gathering was a time of refreshing as guest speaker, Natalie Runion, brought a powerful word sharing her experience as a pastor's kid wounded by church hurt.

Lightning sessions were a reminder that not only do we need to be mindful of our spiritual health but our physical and emotional health as well. Sunday morning Natalie preached the final message and Whitney Davis, Director of Women's Ministries, brought us into an intimate time of unity, as we remembered the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior by taking communion.

As we said our goodbyes to old friends and new ones made, we left refreshed and renewed, ready to be about our Father's business. If you haven't had the opportunity to attend an IPHC WM Leader's Gathering, 2024 will bring a new opportunity in a new location! We look forward to serving you in the years to come!





Visit this [event page](#) for more info and to register.

#### **Hotels near Black Fox Lodge**

##### **Ramada by Wyndham**

2193 Parkway  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3309  
(800) 854-9517

##### **Willow Brook Lodge**

3035 Parkway  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3311  
(865) 453-5334  
(800) 765-1380

##### **Vacation Lodge**

3450 Parkway  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863-3803  
(865) 453-2640  
(800) 468-1998

##### **Quality Inn**

3756 Parkway  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863  
(865) 366-5691

**\*Please note: The Black Fox Lodge is not offering special rates for the conference.**



## TAKE IT BACK!

*The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).*

Have you ever suffered a loss? Maybe you lost your dreams? Maybe you lost family, finances or good opportunities? Loss is a common weapon of the enemy. He works overtime to bring discouragement. He wants you to give up on your dream.

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But when desire comes, it is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).*

However, Jesus removed the legal right that allowed Satan to take your blessings. Not only is the legal right of the enemy revoked, he has also been disarmed. Like a lion with no teeth, or a gun with no bullets, the enemy is powerless.

*"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15).*

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

David gives us proven strategies to recover our families, our finances, and our future! The devil knows that the blood of Jesus has rendered him powerless. And he is standing by ready to steal your blessings. Do you know what the blood of Jesus really did for you? If so, you can take back what the enemy has stolen!

### DISASTER AT THE CITY OF ZIGLAG

Most of us are familiar with this story. However, it is good for us to revisit this experience in the life of David. David and his men returned to Ziklag. Even before they arrived, they could see flames of fire in the distance. They knew the city was on fire. When they arrived at the city, they found it on fire. They discovered that their wives, sons, and daughters had been taken as captives (I Samuel 30:3, 4). They were so distressed that they wept until they could weep no more (v. 4).

### STONE THE LEADER

The people were so upset that they talked about stoning David. At this point in his life, David needed their prayers, their wisdom, and their support (v. 6). The only place that David could turn was to God. Scripture states that David encouraged himself in the Lord his God (I Samuel 30:6). He spoke with the priest and inquired of the Lord (v. 8).



## SHALL I PURSUE THIS TROOP?

This was David's question to the Lord. And the Lord answered with a bold response: *"Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail RECOVER ALL" (1 Samuel 30:8)*. David and his men did pursue the enemy and defeated them. *"And David recovered ALL that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives" (1 Samuel 30:18)*.

## IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RECOVER ALL

It is time for you to recover your family!

It is time for you to recover your finances!

It is time for you to recover your future!



# November Calendar



- 3 Women's Ministries Fall Conference**
- 5 Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 11 Veteran's Day**