



# Introduction to Salvation

## HOW CAN I CHANGE MY LIFE?

God loved us so much that He did not allow us to die in our sins, but instead, He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for my sins. John 3:16

### Plan of Salvation

We are all sinners

There is a price for our sins. **Romans 6:23**

We need to repent, turn away from our sins. **Mark 1:15**

Christ paid the price for your sins. **Romans 5:8**

You must believe in Him. **Romans 10: 9-10**

#### Recognize that your sin separates you from God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...the wages of sin is death.” **Romans 3:23, 6:23**

**Realize that God loves you and believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins.** “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son (to die as our substitute), that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”. **John 3:16**

Christ “suffered once for (our) sins, the righteous for the unrighteous (us), that He might bring us to God.” **I Peter 3:18**

#### Take the first step ...

##### Receive Him into your life by faith

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned...whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.”

**John 3:17-18,36**



### Get involved in a Bible-Teaching Church



If you do not belong to a bible teaching church, don't wait to get involved. They can help you develop to be a mature Christian through bible teaching and fellowship. In Hebrews 10:25 and Acts 2: 42-47, the word admonishes us not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together...” You are an important member of the body of Christ. Allow God to grow in you and work through you by being fed the Word of God through regular church attendance.

**The questions is...are you willing to change your life?**

## Defining Salvation

**Salvation** – deliverance from the power and penalty of sins; redemption

**Save** -means to be delivered.

**Surrender** – to yield, to give oneself up

**Conversion** – when a change takes place in your heart through the Spirit of God.

**Faith** – believe that which is not seen; now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

**Repentance** – turning away from your sinful nature.

and acknowledging your sin in the presence of God through prayer.

**Holy Spirit** – the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) through whom God acts, reveals His will, empowers individuals and discloses His personal presence

**Believe** – to have confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something

**Sin** – transgression of divine law

### Why Do We Share The Gospel?

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

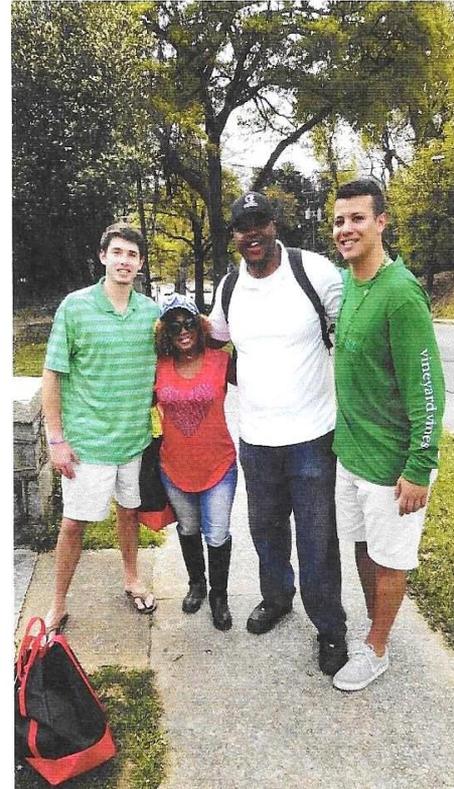
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

In the gospel according to Matthew, we see that Jesus Christ instructs his disciples to go into all the world to teach or preach the gospel. This passage is referred to as the great commission and is the mandate for Christians all over the world. At Commission Outreach Church, it is our desire to fulfill the great commission. We do this by focusing on what we call the three D's which are decide, develop, and disciple.

As a church, we want to compel men and women to make a decision to follow Christ, help to develop them in their walk with the Lord, and to urge believers everywhere to go into all the world and make disciples. That is our purpose and mission and we would love for you to be a part of it.



If you would like to volunteer to serve the community with us, please visit [commissionoc.org](http://commissionoc.org) or scan with your mobile phone.



## Each Day Brings a New Beginning

The Community Herald Character Word for the Month



You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20



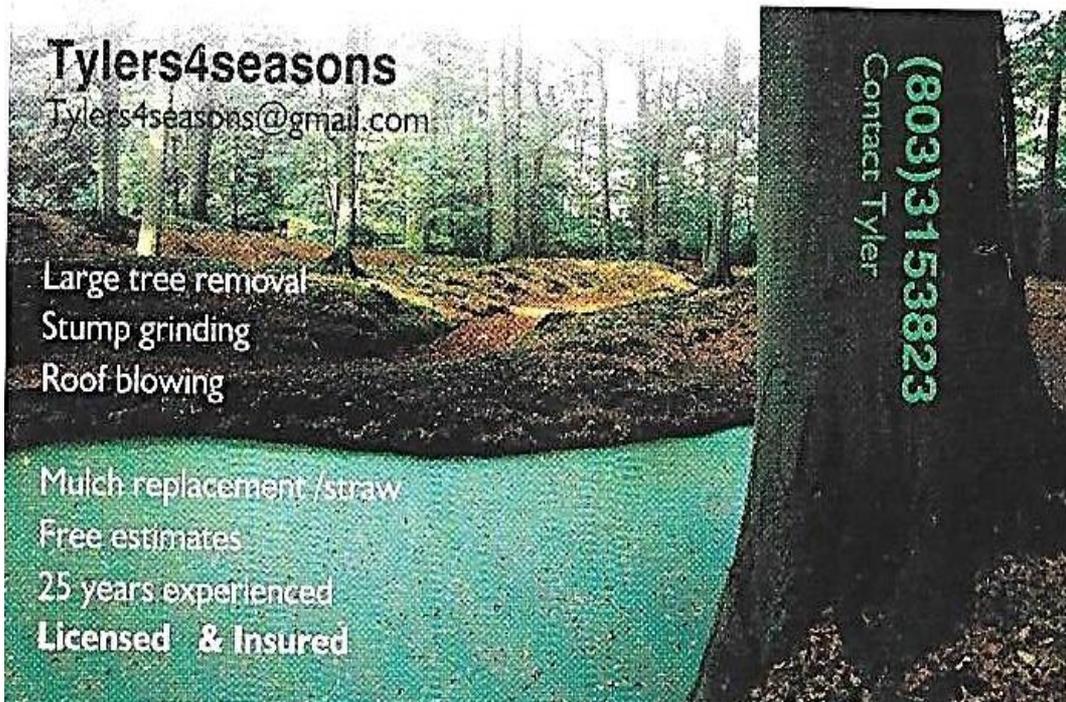
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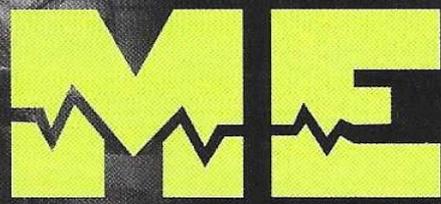
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### Christ's Bell



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**I KNOW WHO I AM**

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)  
 I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
 I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)  
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
 I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
 I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
 I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)  
 I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)  
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
 I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)  
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )  
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28 )  
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 )  
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph.. 3: 12 )  
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13 )  
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
 I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
 I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
 I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)  
 I have been redeemed and forgiven ( Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)  
 I belong to God  
 Do you know  
 Who you are?



## Announcements

### Rhema Word Restoration Ministries

908 N. Brickyard Road, Columbia, SC 29223  
 (803) 419-5266

Dr. Carl and Lady Camesha Parrott

### Our Prophetic Connection Service will be held

November 29 – December 2, 2016

**The Ecclesiastical Orators are:** Apostle Norman Orrell, Prophet Brian Mosley Prophetess Valerie Moore & Apostle John Reed

Our annual **Watch Night Service** will be held on December 31, 2016 @ 10:00 pm. *Breakfast will be served.*

### Gill Creek Baptist Church

*"A Place to be Revived, Restored and Refreshed"*

2116 Cushman Drive, Columbia, SC 29204  
 (803) 754-6616

Rev. James C. Woodley, Pastor

*You are invited!*

**Fall Revival**, November 15-17, 2016, 6:30 nightly.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Lester W. Taylor, Jr.  
 Community Baptist Church, Inglewood, NJ.

**Missionary Ministry Scholarship Tea** – November 20, 2016 @ 3:00 pm

### Progressive Believers Baptist Church

*"Every Member A Believer...Every Believer a witness for Jesus Christ."*

1540 Elmtree Road, Columbia, SC 29209  
 (803) 783-3269

Rev. Gregory B. Cunningham - Pastor

### Christmas Celebration

Sunday December 18, 2016 @ 11:30 a.m.

*Come, celebrate with us!*

### Good News Family Worship Center

7500 Terry Street, Cola SC  
 Bishop Tod D. Seaton  
 (803) 269-3159

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Church Christmas Party after AM Service. Bring food to share and a gift of any kind. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – Play Practice @ 9:00 am

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Church Christmas Play at 11:00 am, all participants need to be present by 10:00 am

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service at 11:00 am

January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Breakfast @ 9:30 am and Service at 11:00 am. Bring a dish or two to share.



### My Prayer for the community....

**Dear Lord,** I want to start by giving you glory, honor and praise. I thank you because you are a loving God. You know the challenges that we face in our everyday lives. You know the needs of the surrounding communities and the people fill them. I pray that you meet every need and strengthen every weakened area of our lives. Thank you for life, health, strength and guidance.

*In Jesus name, Amen*

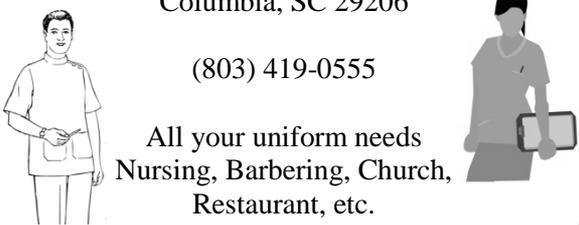
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## Testimony of a Thankful Witness of the Goodness of God

My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory!

After retiring and serving 21 years in the military, my family and I decided to go on a vacation as a retirement present for ourselves. While on vacation the retirement check was supposed to start.

Well, the first retirement check was supposed to come, but there was no retirement check. Let me tell you that God is good, Oh Yes He is. He provided for us. My family and I didn't miss a beat. Our trust was in our heavenly Father. He is our source. All of our needs were met.

In the midst of it all we still paid our tithes and gave our offering.

He surely opened up a window and poured us out a blessing.

We know that God will never leave us nor forsake us and God wants us to be good stewards over what He has blessed us with. Our savings helped us through this trying period but it was only by the grace of God that we did not lack for anything during this trail. Our trust remained and continues to remain in the Lord for the bible states, *"to trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto thy own understand. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path."*

## Sharing God's love

Through your church news, events and testimonies as we support each other and elevate the goodness of God.

**The Community Herald**  
 Telephone #(803) 312-1574  
 or (803) 647-0752  
 Email:  
[thecommunityherald@yahoo.com](mailto:thecommunityherald@yahoo.com)



### Kingdom Builders After School Academic Program (A.S.A.P)

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**KBCC** has a proven place and program of safety and excellence in academics through homework assistance, healthy snacks, recreational activities, field trips and a competent, mature and loving staff serving children of all ages in our After-School Program.

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Building Lives, Building Family, Building Futures



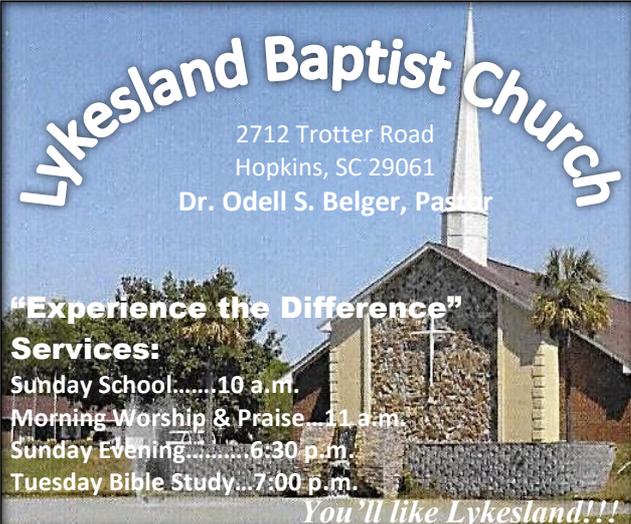
## Agape Church

203 Plumbers Road  
Columbia, SC 29203  
Office (803) 714-9989  
www.AGAPECHURCH.ORG

**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm Prayer  
7:30 pm Bible Study

**Sunday**  
7:00 am Prayer  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:30 am Worship Service

**Bishop Alvin T. & Sheila McNair**



## Lykesland Baptist Church

2712 Trotter Road  
Hopkins, SC 29061  
Dr. Odell S. Belger, Pastor

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**Services:**  
Sunday School.....10 a.m.  
Morning Worship & Praise...11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening.....6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Bible Study...7:00 p.m.

*You'll like Lykesland!!!*

## Bible Way Church

2440 Atlas Road  
Columbia, SC 29209  
(803) 776-1238  
www.bwcar.org

**Weekly Schedule of Services:**  
Sunday Worship 8:00 & 11am  
Christian Education (see website for classes)  
Children's Church Sunday: 11:00am  
WIRE Service for Teens: 2nd & 3rd Sundays  
11:00am  
Bible Study: Tuesdays 6:00p.m.  
Noon Day Prayer: Daily at 12:00p.m.  
Women's Intercessory Prayer: Thursdays 6:00pm  
Personal Development Institute: Thursdays 7:00pm  
Men's Prayer: Saturdays 7:00am

## Kingdom Builders Christian Center

Word Alive Radio Broadcast  
with  
Pastor Norman E. Curlee

**Gospel** 95.3 WFMV  
Sundays 8:15pm - 8:45pm

## Crossroad World Outreach Center



2506 Emanuel Church Road  
West Columbia, SC 29170

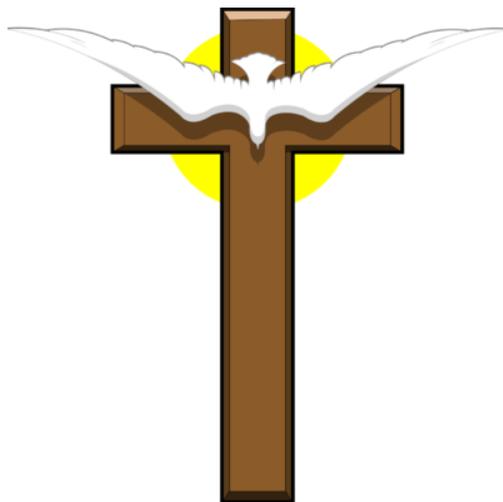
**Service Times**

**Sunday:**  
10:00am Worship Service  
6:00pm Youth Group

**Wednesday:**  
6:30pm Girls Ministries  
7:00pm Adult Bible Study

**Nursery provided**

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ROMANS 10:17

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803-419-5266 908 North Brickyard Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Intercessory Prayer  
Sunday 11:30 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. - Intercessory Prayer  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - School of the Word

www.rhemaministries.net  
rhemaministries@bellsouth.net  
Mailing: PO Box 23754  
Columbia, SC 29224  
Twitter: RWRM  
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**Service Times**  
Sunday Worship: 10am  
Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:15am  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm  
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Pastor Norman and Lady Deloris Curlee

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Sunday School 10:00am  
Morning Worship 11:00am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00am  
Noon Day Prayer (Mon-Fri) 12:00pm-1:00pm  
Monday Night Prayer 7:00pm

**Living Water Bible School (Sept-May)**

2229 Decker Boulevard- Suite D  
Columbia, SC 29206 (803) 699-9346



## Progressive Believers Baptist Church

*Come, worship with us!*

**Sunday**  
Worship Service -11:30 am  
Children's Ministry  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

*"Every Member A Believer...Every Believer a witness for Jesus Christ."*

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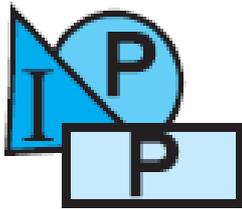
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Rev. Yvonne Sanders, Pastor

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17TH ANNUAL

# Christmas Banquet

featured Guest Speaker

**PROPHET EVANS PIERRE**  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY



Evans Pierre is a graduate of Nyack College, with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Biblical Studies. He is a preacher of the Gospel, teacher of the word of God, mentor in the prophetic, and an author. Furthermore, he is the founder and President of Addereith Ministries. The Bible teaches that the ministry gifts are called to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Therefore, Evans believes he is called to equip and edify the body of Christ for effective ministry. Evans is so passionate about his that wherever he goes, he seeks to impart knowledge and wisdom towards that end. He has a powerful prophetic anointing. He preaches the word with demonstrations of the Holy Ghost. His meetings are noted for Revival and Supernatural Increase. Come and join us in this Holy Ghost Encounter for a refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Tickets

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016**

**TIME: 6:00 P.M.**

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Living Water Christian Outreach Center Church is located directly across the street from the Bi-lo Shopping Center on Decker Boulevard. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT 803.699.9346



### Putting God's Word into Action

A voice was calling; "prepare a way for the Lord in the desert, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God" (Is 40:3).

Preparing a straight highway means removing obstacles (any things that blocks) and the desert is a place of life's trails and suffering. **Lead those out who has eyes but blind, ears but deaf (Is 43:8).**

First you must get into the mind of the spirit, **building yourself up on your most holy faith, pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).** Second you must decree (order) the Word as it applies to the problem through prayer. Unseen promises exist and whatever you ask for in prayer, **have faith and believe you will receive (Matthew 21:22). Continue to live in Jesus Christ, rooted and built up in Him, strengthen in the faith as you were taught and being thankful (Col 2:6,7).** Christ wants to guide you and help you. **Do not be afraid for I am with you (Is 43:5).** You are my witness, says the Lord my servant whom I have chosen (Is 43:10).

Believers today share the responsibility of being God's witness. **As a result he does not live the rest of his earthly life for human desires, but for the will of the Lord (1 Peter 4:2).** Sin loses power to defeat us if we focus on Christ and what He wants us to do. Avoid being extreme. **Apply your mind to instruction and correction and your ears to the words of knowledge (Proverbs 23:12).** The Word says we are to be well balanced because the enemy (devil) seeks someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Imitate God's goodness. **For you made him to be blessed and a blessing for others (Psalms 21:6).** God's way works, everyone is blessed who walks in His ways and live according to His commandments (Psalms 128:1) Get rid of distractions because what is desired in a man is loyalty and kindness

(Proverbs 19:22). Let Christ live through you by living by faith in the Son of God, who love you and gave Himself up for you (Galatians 2:20). Let God set your agenda. He will anoint you to do what he calls you to do. **But this thing I did command them: Listen to and obey my voice and I will be your God and you will be my people; and walk in the whole way that I command you, that it may be well with you (Jeremiah 7:23)**

Now accept responsibility. Rejoice! Be strengthened, be encouraged and consoled and comforted; **of the same mind with one another; live in peace, and the God of Love and the Author and Promoter of peace will be with you (2 Corinthians 13:11)** Get up and work and let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord our God be upon us. Move forward **do not consider that you captured and made it on your own, but do one thing forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, press on (Philippians 3:13,14).**

As we put God's Word into action preparing and making straight a way for the Lord in the desert, the ministry is being fulfilled, **for you shall eat the fruit of your labor, happy you shall be and it shall be well with you. (Psalms 128:2), in Jesus' name (John 16:23, 14:14)**



Linda Kershaw

**Linda's**

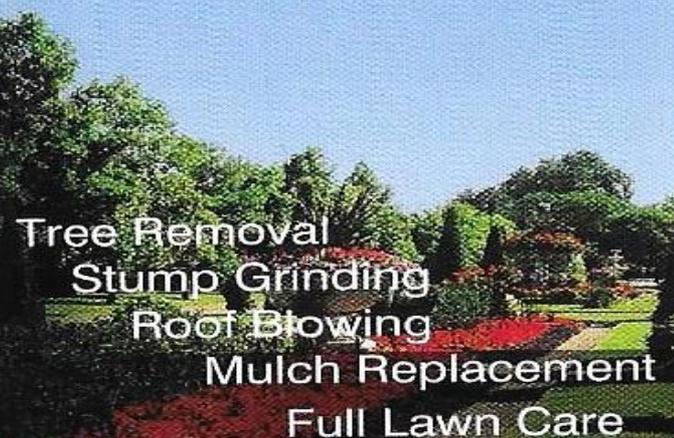
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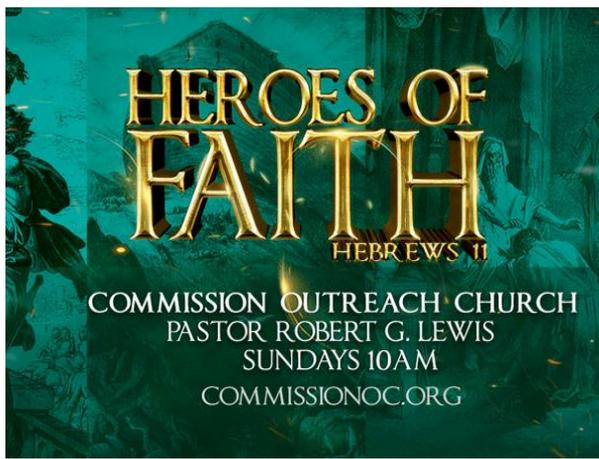


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### Who Do You Have Your Faith In?

The word of God is clear which says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"(Hebrews 11:6 KJV). Faith should be a central part of the Christian believer's life. As a result, it is important that we have faith in the right persons or things. When we look at the definition of faith, it is defined as confidence or trust in a person or thing. The question that we must ask ourselves as Christian believers is who is that person or thing that we put our trust in? It is imperative that we are honest with ourselves as we answer this question because often times we are placing our trust and confidence in something that isn't capable of meeting our expectations. I am convinced and confident without a shadow of a doubt that the only person that we can whole heartily put our faith, trust, and confidence in is the true and living God.

Over the last couple of months as our nation has been preparing to elect America's 45th president, it was clear that so many people were listening to all the different politicians from the many political parties and were placing all of their hopes and dreams on the many campaign pledges that each candidate spoke during the many debates and town hall events. History has shown that much of what is said during a campaign election season often doesn't get accomplished for one reason or another which inevitably leaves supporters disappointed and frustrated. During this time, I couldn't help but think about the children of Israel. God continually over and over again showed himself faithful, but they would turn their back on him and place their trust in men, and the many idol gods of the different surrounding nations during ancient times.

Of course, I am not suggesting that participating in the democratic process is sinful, but as we look at the children of Israel, God's chosen people, we as Christians can learn a lot about how we should and should not operate in our Christian life when it comes to placing out faith in the word of God.

My mentor, Bishop Alvin McNair, would often say something that I will never forget, "You can learn anything from anybody even if it is not to be like them". I believe that God has given the body of Christ great examples of men and women who in the Bible exhibited great acts of faith as they put their trust and confidence in God. As we go through this series, Pastor Johanna and I will be teaching on some of the great heroes of the faith that are mentioned in Hebrews 11. I believe that we as believers have an important task to point people to Christ during challenging times. We must make sure that just like the heroes of faith in the Bible, that we are not moved by what we see, but that we maintain our trust and hope in God and be the examples that will instruct others to do the same.

*Pastor Robert G. Lewis*

### Commission Outreach Church

Lourie Center

1650 Park Circle, Columbia, SC 29201

Telephone # (803) 470-4477

Website: [www.commissionoc.org](http://www.commissionoc.org) Email: [admin@commissionoc.org](mailto:admin@commissionoc.org)



### Breaking Life Cycles



The Community Herald is happy to announce a new ongoing feature entitled: "**Breaking Life Cycles!**" This feature is being introduced in the current issue (**December 2016 - January/February 2017**) and will appear in each issue thereafter. "Cycles of Life" occur throughout life and can come with many challenges, changes, and adjustments. They can be viewed as positive, negative, or a combination of both. The word "cycle" according to Webster (i.e. Merriam - Webster) is defined as a recurring event or something that is done repetitively.

Our main goal with adding this feature ("**Breaking Life Cycles**") is to encourage you (our valuable readers, advertisers, and general public) in daily life. We plan to do this through the Word of God as we share what we feel will be thoughtful, practical suggestions to uplift, inspire, and motivate you!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.*" So it is with the "Cycles of Life." There are times in our lives for some things to happen and times in our lives for other things to happen. Throughout life, we will continually experience these seasons ("cycles"). This is however . . . **life**.

During the seasons and cycles of our life, from infancy through our golden years, we encounter and experience an ongoing series of transitions and transformations. Within these cycles, various types of changes are included: spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual, social, as well as family and financial. We can take refuge in the fact that through God's Word, we can go through these times with certainty that we will overcome and be victorious!

The Lord Jesus is so good and so amazing that he already knows what we need before we realize we have a need. He provides practical steps in His Word that only require us to have faith the size of a mustard seed. We can therefore go forth in His name, walking in the Spirit, trusting, believing, and knowing that "His grace is sufficient."

#### Three Good Steps to Begin With:

1. Believe that God's power is greater than your weakness and limitations. Faith actions:
  - A. Pray and seek ways to reach out and help someone in a positive way today.
  - B. Seek answers through the Bible. God's word has the power to break every negative cycle you have acknowledged and taken ownership of. "His word won't return void."
  - C. Don't procrastinate on any matter you need to address today. (Consider the example of the ant in Proverbs 6:6)
2. Surround yourself with trustworthy people.
 

You will know them by their actions, how they treat you, the things they say and do, and how they treat God's Word. Spend your time with people that will lift up your spirit and not tear you down. The person you are closest to is the person you will become (**Is that person Jesus? "He sticks closer than any brother."**) He who walks with the wise will become wise (Proverbs 13:20). Do not be misled by bad company "corrupts" good character. (1 Corinthians 15:33, 34)
3. Response to the truth of God's Word.
  - A. Acknowledge to God what your cycle is and ask His help to break it.
  - B. Actively pray, continue to trust the Lord, and be encouraged.

Breaking Life Cycles can be challenging, but can be made much easier to bear when we "Cast our cares on Him." He is our source of strength and encouragement. As you continue, believe and know that God's power is greater than your weaknesses and limitations. Through God's Word, the "cycles" will be broken and the blessings will come forth.

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# T H E P U R P O S E

To give the history of Israel's conquest of the promise land. For forty years, Israel had journeyed a circuitous route through the desert, but not because they were following their leader. Quite the opposite was true with failing faith they had refused to obey God and to conquer Canaan. So they wandered finally, the new generation was ready to cross the jordan and possess the land.

## The Book of Joshua

*Key verse: "Go through the camp and tell the people, get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own."*

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Success	God gave success to the Israelites when they obeyed his master plan, not when they followed their own desires. Victory came when they trusted in him rather than in their military power, money, muscle, or mental capacity.	God's work done in God's way will bring his success. The standard for success, however, is not to be set by the society around us but by God's Word. We must adjust our minds to God's way of thinking in order to see his standard for success.
Faith	The Israelites demonstrated their faith by trusting God daily to save and guide them. By noticing how God fulfilled his promises in the past, they developed strong confidence that he would be faithful in the future.	Our strength to do God's work comes from trusting him. His promises reassure us of his love and that he will be there to guide us in the decisions and struggles we face. Faith begins with believing he can be trusted.
Guidance	God gave instructions to Israel for every aspect of their lives. His law guided their daily living and his specific marching orders gave them victory in battle.	Guidance from God for daily living can be found in his Word. By staying in touch with God, we will have the needed wisdom to meet the great challenges of life.
Leadership	Joshua was an example of an excellent leader. He was confident in God's strength, courageous in the face of opposition, and willing to seek God's advice.	To be a strong leader like Joshua we must be ready to listen and to move quickly when God instructs us. Once we have his instructions, we must be diligent in carrying them out. Strong leaders are led by God.
Conquest	God commanded his people to conquer the Canaanites and take all their land. Completing this mission would have fulfilled God's promise to Abraham and brought judgment on the evil people living there. Unfortunately, Israel never finished the job.	Israel was faithful in accomplishing their mission at first, but their commitment faltered. To love God means more than being enthusiastic about him. We must complete all the work he gives us and apply his instructions to every corner of our lives.

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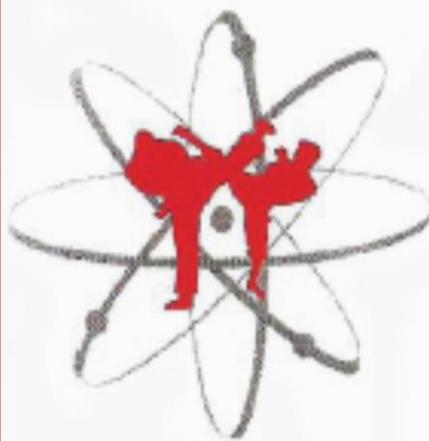
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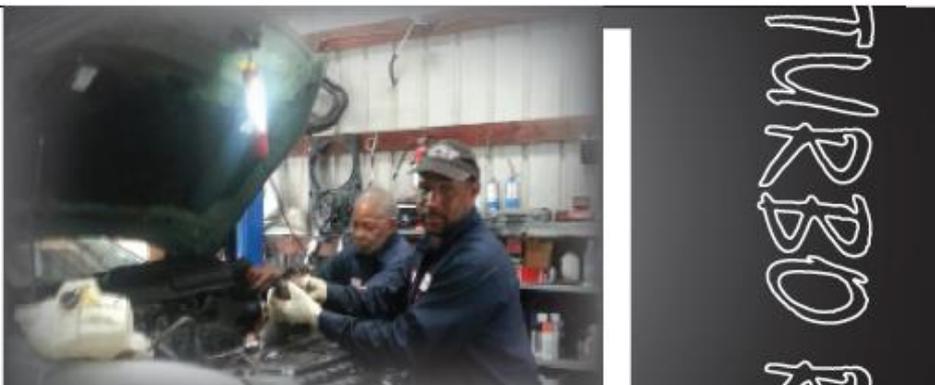
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| Day 6  | Isaiah 58:5   | Day 21 | Malachi 3:6,7     |
| Day 7  | Matthew 7:7   | Day 22 | Matthew 10:19     |
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| Day 9  | Jude 1:20     | Day 24 | Lamentations 2:10 |
| Day 10 | Ezekiel 22    | Day 25 | Acts 24:5         |
| Day 11 | Psalms 141    | Day 26 | 1 Kings 13:8      |
| Day 12 | Proverbs 9:8  | Day 27 | John 18:19        |
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**PRAISE – PEACE**  
**PRESIDENT ELECT**

by: *Pastor Norman Curlee*



The 2016 Election has come and gone. The reality is President Elect Trump is in position to be our next president.

Nevertheless, the voice of a democracy has spoken in a majority rule fashion. But for those of us who recognize and reverence a greater power, Jesus Christ, our Praise & Peace remains. Regardless of which way you may have voted, as believers we must never let anyone or anything come between our faith and fellowship with Jesus.

Therefore, I encourage you close the door in which discouragement, doubt and an outlook of doom has opened against your faith and fellowship with Jesus. Instead embrace a Kingdom Mindset regarding the outcome and make sure that Jesus is the one you can boldly declare is in charge of your Day and Destiny, the Nations, the Church, and your Peace and Prosperity. The Word of God says, *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with CONFIDENCE, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5b-6 (NIV)). The Scripture also says, “For dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.” (Psalm 22:28 (NIV)).*

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**TRANSFORMATION**

*(Can We Be Real?)*  
 By Sheila B. McNair



**Agape Church & New Covenant Christian Center**

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another year. This has truly been a momentous and breathtaking journey and we are Grateful.

The things my family and I have experienced over the past few years changed me personally for the better. Yes, I must say, a "God" thing has taken place in my life.

**TRANSFORMATION**

We all have struggles, strains and stressors that weigh on us heavily in life that is designed to make us or break us. But God! (I Corinthians 10:13 But God is faithful; He will not suffer (allow) you to be tempted beyond that which ye are able to bear ;...). Can We Be Real?

We think because we are seated in certain positions or carry certain titles we are exempt from trials, test and trouble. Many times we walk around out of touch with our real selves and find out we are suffocating from lack of being able to

breathe, afraid of what people are going to think or say if we exhale. Oh well, (Luke 6:26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you.). Let's be real, we are not perfect and we hurt just like the rest of the best. You are in a flesh and blood body. When you get cut you bleed too. The truth is, many wear mask. Can We Be Real?

Through God's unfailing love and His forgiving power, (Lamentations 3:22b because his compassions fail not.) I have been able to overcome many deep pits I found myself in. I can't give the devil credit for the pits (many times we give him too much credit) I must put the blame where it needs to be, me. I allowed anger, resentment; thoughts and regret pack me deeper in as a result of betrayal and loss.

I thank God I had stored up prayers and praise, family, church members and friends

who prayed on a regular basis without having to know what I was dealing with inwardly (Philemon 1:4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers). The prayers of the righteous do avail much. Instead of staying where I was, I used God's Love as my "Driving Force" (a message preached by Pastor Carolyn Moye') and drove myself to a place of freedom and victory. My testimony enthusiastically is, I've been changed, healed, freed, and delivered. I found joy, peace, grace, and favor. I want go back, I can't go back. This is real!

If you are in it, facing it or coming out of any situation or circumstance such as I found myself in, "To thy own self be true", peck your way out. You too can be "Transformed through God's un-failing Love".

**Can We Be Real?**

Jeremy Finklin  
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