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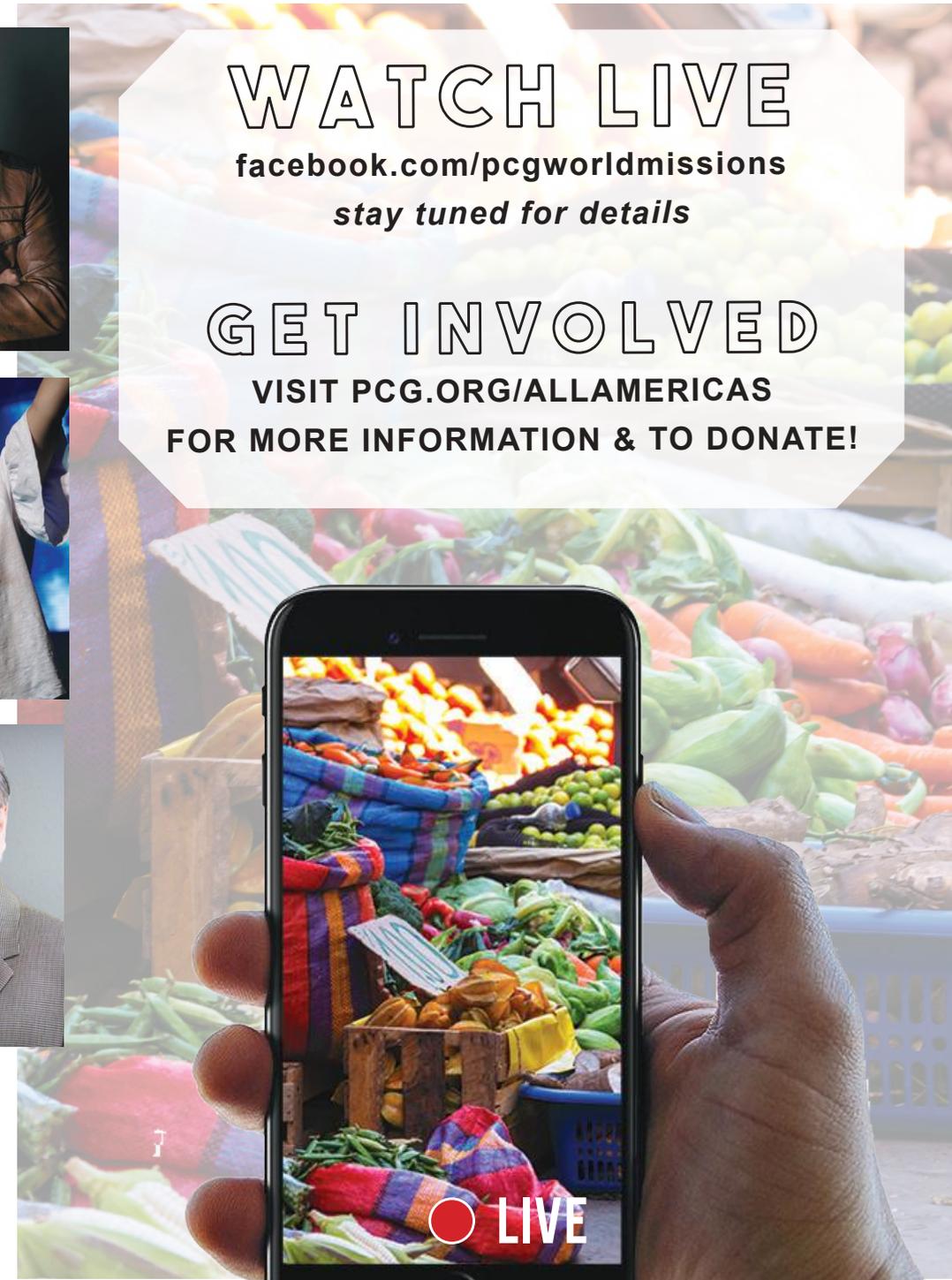
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PENTECOSTAL MESSENGER
VOLUME 92, ISSUE 3

IN THIS ISSUE

This edition of the *Pentecostal Messenger* focuses on the “Culture of One Mission—One Movement” and provides crucial insight on this topic via thoughtful articles from our contributing writers.

What does the word *culture* really mean? How do cultures develop? How can PCG ministers, churches, and the organization (as a whole) create and foster specific cultures which will advance our One Mission—One Movement commitment? In our cover feature, General Bishop Wayman Ming Jr. opens this dialogue and suggests a cultural shift through intentionally living in three distinctive ways.

Pastors Glenroy Powell and Josh Pennington present even more to consider as they address the importance of developing a *culture of unity* and a *culture of calling* in their respective articles. Plus, Rev. Vernell Ingle examines the connection between true learning and a *culture of humility* in “The Mandate” column; and Empowered Women’s Ministries Director Kimberly Ming speaks to “Cultivating a Heart of Mentorship” in this issue’s department focus.

We’ve also included highlights from Impact Summerfest 2018—the most-attended Summerfest program yet! As we close the books on this successful event, we’ve already turned our full attention to next year’s Centennial Celebration. Mark your calendars for June 25-28, 2019. Destination: Irving, Texas (part of the DFW Metroplex and close to our own International Mission Center). Details are forthcoming, so watch for updates via the PCG website, email, social media, and your own mailbox! 📧

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August
14-16 **AUGUST 14-16, 2018**
All-Americas Continental Conference
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

October
1-31 **OCTOBER 1-31, 2018**
Light Another Candle
Empowered Women’s Ministries

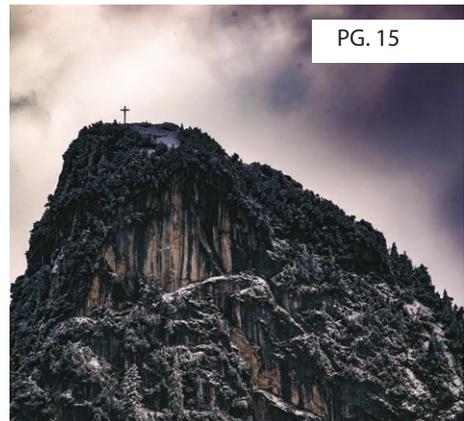
December
6-8 **DECEMBER 6-8, 2018**
IMPACT Appalachia
Winchester, KY

January
1-31 **JANUARY 1-31, 2019**
I-CONNECT 2019 (Connection Registration)
Empowered Women’s Ministries

January
11-12 **JANUARY 11-12, 2019**
WEST Encounter • Concord, CA
New Hope Church

January
18-19 **JANUARY 18-19, 2019**
CENTRAL Encounter • Euless, TX
New Life Family Church

January
25-26 **JANUARY 25-26, 2019**
EAST Encounter • Indianapolis, IN
Bethel Family Worship Center



THE *Culture* OF ONE MISSION. ONE MOVEMENT.

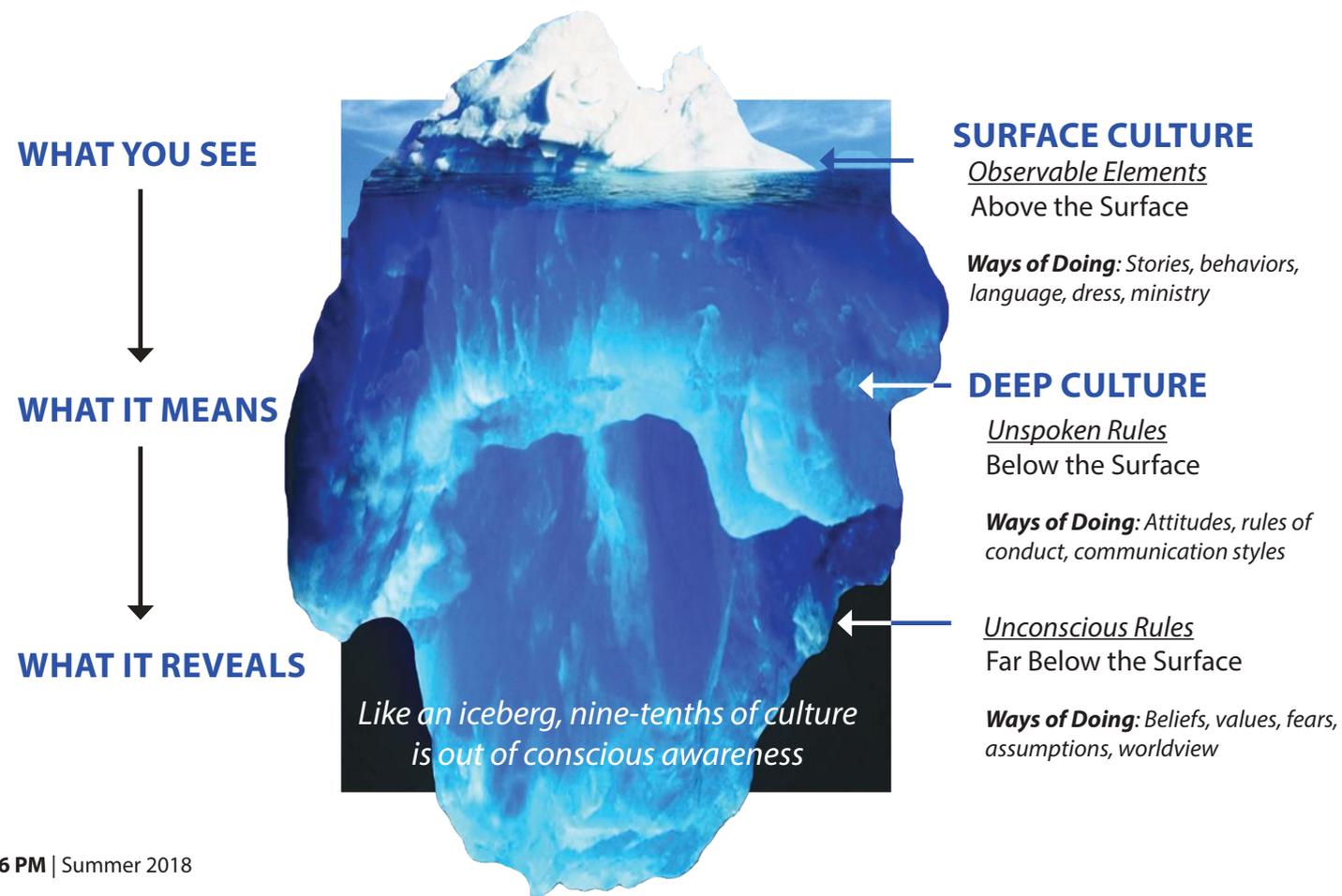
BY DR. WAYMAN MING JR.

What comes to mind when you hear the word *culture*? Have you ever thought about the notion that our homes, churches, and organizations have a specific culture? Actually, note the meaning of the word...

Definition of Culture: The sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another. (Dictionary.com)

Did you capture the big idea? Culture involves the *sum total of the way we live*. It is the sum total of our beliefs and behaviors integrated in daily life and transmitted to the generations that follow:

Much like an iceberg, our lives are the sum total of characteristics that are not just seen above the surface but are developed below the surface. What we do in public is often activated by what we believe and value in private.



Much like an iceberg, every person creates culture above and below the surface of their lives. Families create culture. Churches and organizations create culture. For example, when the leadership of a church parks in the back of the parking lot to allow guests and the elderly to have the best parking spots, that creates a certain culture—putting others first. Or, when the church leaders walk through the facilities and pick up paper or displaced items from the floor instead of leaving them as is, that creates a certain culture—God’s house is important. In other words, culture is created by the way we live our lives.

Why is this so important? Because the culture in our churches and organizations determines how people fit in! Culture determines what kind of life grows and flourishes and what kind of life doesn’t. Just like certain kinds of plants and animals thrive in certain environments, culture enhances whether people grow and, ultimately, influences their environment. In many ways, culture to a church or organization is like personality to a person. In essence, the best way to describe culture would simply be to say, “This is how we live”—“this is how we live in the Ming family...this is how we live at our church...this is how we live in the Pentecostal Church of God.”

So, here is the all-important question: **Are we creating culture by design or default?** In the Pentecostal Church of God, we hope to create culture by design. Certainly, our movement has already developed a certain culture; however, that doesn’t mean the existing culture can’t be reformed. In this article, I would like to inspire the beginning steps toward a cultural shift through intentionally living in three ways—placing “Mission above the Machine,” placing “People above Our Preferences,” and placing the “Other Generations above My Generation.” Are you ready?

PLACE “MISSION ABOVE THE MACHINE”

Some have heard me share that one of most transformational moments in my life occurred when the Holy Spirit revealed that I was “oiling the machinery” more than “moving the mission of Christ forward.” Unfortunately, many of us can wind up in an all-too-familiar place—maintaining ministry more than living the mission of Christ. Allow me to ask you a personal question: Are you maintaining the ministry machine of your life or are you living the mission of Christ?

Now, if you have any question marks concerning what living the mission of Christ really means, allow me to reinforce the notion that missional living represents a significant cultural shift in the way we live for Christ. Missional living means that we engage the world the same way that Jesus did—by “going and reaching out” rather than just “modeling what we believe.” Jesus said:

- “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15, NKJV).
- “And as you go, preach saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 10:7, NKJV).

According to these mandates, every Christ-follower should intentionally engage people concerning the gospel and the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, I believe that every Christian should be able to articulate his/her faith in three minutes or less. The reference to “preach” in these scriptures doesn’t pertain to standing behind a pulpit in front of Christians. It means intentionally engaging pre-Christians throughout life’s journey.

Recently, I was returning from Africa and ended up right next to a wonderful Muslim lady in full regalia. She was

covered in her burka, and her hands and wrists were decorated with this type of lovely calligraphy. After engaging in a conversation, I learned that the artistic flair on her hands and fingers did not represent anything more than her desire to present herself with elegance. During our conversation, I noticed that she kept clicking a little item that looked like a stop-watch. When I asked about it, she showed me the number 1,301 on the face of it and expressed that she had asked God (Allah) to forgive her 1,301 times. I certainly tried not to express my utter amazement. But on the inside, I was doing somersaults when she shared that she had clicked her small trinket 1,301 times during the past 30 minutes. Of course, this opened the door to a conversation concerning the notion that Christ died on the cross to forgive us of our sins once and for all.

The truth is that I could have modeled the Christ-life by being kind to this woman during the entirety of the trip, but until I engaged her in a conversation, I wasn’t placing “mission above the machine.” In fact, I couldn’t help but ask myself what Christ would have done in my situation. Candidly, I don’t believe that He would have sat by her on that flight without ever engaging her in a conversation concerning her soul? As the Scripture declares, “...And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14, NKJV).

May I suggest a cultural shift here? Would I be too bold to suggest that we can end up “oiling the machinery of ministry” and excuse ourselves from “moving the mission of Christ forward”? Certainly, a tension exists to do “business as usual,” and unless we intentionally live our lives by filtering what we do through the grid of mission, we can become spiritually complacent. Interestingly, complacency is common when our focus is more management-based than mission-driven, and when we are internally focused rather than externally motivated.

Please hear my heart! In the Pentecostal Church of God, we must experience a culture shift that allows us to filter everything through the grid of mission. If what we're doing in ministry is not reaching the lost and equipping and sending the found, then we should cast it as far as the East is from the West. If what we're doing is not multiplying ministers and missionaries, training church planters and multicultural leaders, and coaching up pastors to reach beyond their four walls, then we should change our priority list.

Fundamentally, missional praxis must supersede church management. In truth, every person is a mission. Every church is a mission, and every nation is a mission. Moving the mission of Christ forward applies the whole life of every person, church, and organization to embody the mission of Christ in their world. Now, that is a culture not only worth dying for but worth living for.

PLACE "PEOPLE ABOVE OUR PREFERENCES"

How is this even possible? Is it possible to place people ahead of our personal preferences? After all, preferences are simply what we prefer—what we like or dislike. Yet, the possibility of this cultural paradigm must exist because Jesus makes the statement:

"...whosoever desires to become great among you, let him be your slave...Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:26, 28, NKJV).

As we look at the example of Jesus, we know this way of life is possible because He continually loved people ahead of Himself. The programs, protocol, and procedures of His time did not supersede the woman at the well, the lame man on the Sabbath, or Lazarus in the tomb.

For years I have struggled with a PCG culture that tends to elevate rules of order and bylaws above people. I've even attended conventions and business meetings where the letter of the law was elevated above the spirit of the law. In other words, the law enslaved people rather than setting them free. Transparently, in those moments, I wanted to turn over the tables of the money-changers and the dove-sellers and say: "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but where there are no people, the vision perishes." In other words, people should be our priority and not our policies and procedures.

One of my favorite stories for illustrating this point involves a pastor who went to a car wash and asked for his trunk to be vacuumed. The attendant responded by saying, "We don't do trunks." The pastor even requested to pay extra and finally offered to pay double, but the attendant still said, "We don't do trunks." Unfortunately, we see some of the same sentiment in the Church. Rather than trying to love and care for people at the point of their need, we tell them, "We don't do trunks." We restrict their freedom because our policies, procedures, and preferences don't allow for anything else to be considered.

As we approach a new chapter for a 2nd-Century PCG, I am praying that we will see a cultural shift that begins to prioritize people above personal preferences. When we begin to hear the sentiment "we don't do trunks," I am praying that we will not allow that sentiment to become our burden. Our preference may suggest that "we don't do trunks," but our willful obedience to Christ will inspire us to place people above ourselves.

Perhaps you've heard the story of Alexander the Great who was in the midst of his 3,300-mile journey in eleven days. His army was parched without water when some Macedonians came by and offered Alexander a drink from one of their helmets.

When Alexander saw hundreds of his men staring at the water, he returned it saying, "If I alone should drink, the rest would be out of heart." His entire army started cheering his temperance and magnanimity, vowing to follow him to the ends of the earth. Why were they cheering? Alexander the Great had placed people above his own preferences.

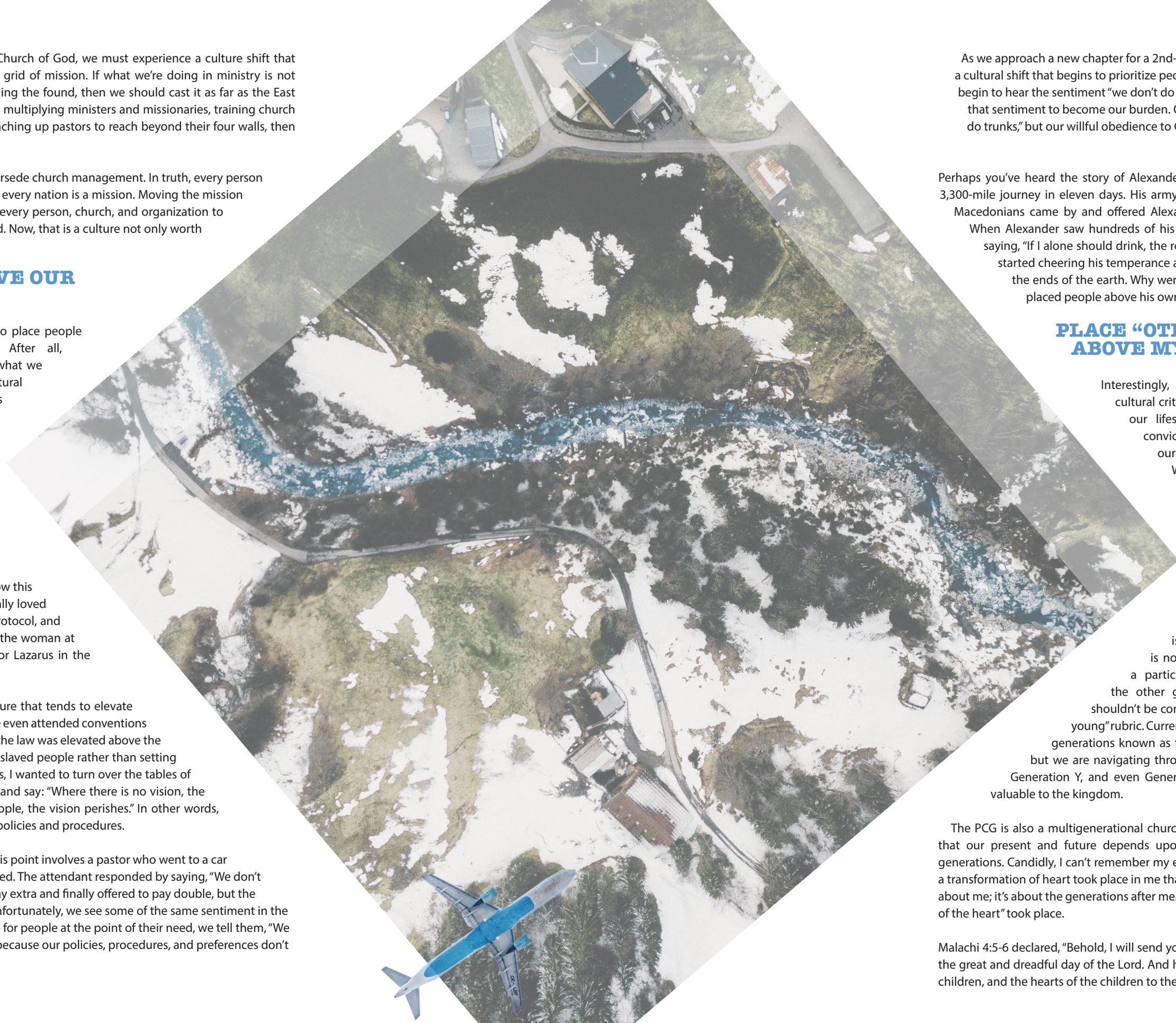
PLACE "OTHER GENERATIONS ABOVE MY GENERATION"

Interestingly, every generation seems to evolve as a cultural critic: "Our music is better than your music... our lifestyle is better than your lifestyle...our convictions are better than your convictions... our generation is better than your generation. Whether in jest or sarcasm, each generation can serve as a voice of antagonism for other generations. Generally, some people never learn the difference between living their lives as critical thinkers rather than critical spirits.

In fact, allow me to highlight the notion that the Church of Jesus Christ is multigenerational. Specifically, there is no such thing as "us" against "them" unless a particular generation wages war against all the other generations. The generational challenge shouldn't be contextualized by a "young vs. old" or "old vs. young" rubric. Currently, we are not just navigating through the generations known as the Depression Kids, Boomers, or Busters, but we are navigating through other generations like Generation X, Generation Y, and even Generation Z. Every generation is unique and valuable to the kingdom.

The PCG is also a multigenerational church, and at some point, we must recognize that our present and future depends upon our willingness to prioritize the next generations. Candidly, I can't remember my exact age or the specific day and time, but a transformation of heart took place in me that affirmed: "The rest of my life is no longer about me; it's about the generations after me." The only way I can describe it is a "turning of the heart" took place.

Malachi 4:5-6 declared, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." (NKJV).



Perhaps, one of the signs of spiritual maturity involves a cultural shift of the heart. The heart shifts toward the other generations and especially the next generations. Interestingly, the heart-shift doesn't begin with the children but with the fathers and mothers. The children certainly reciprocate but specifically after the parents initiate.

Unfortunately, some church leaders still struggle with segregating the next generations rather than integrating them. Instead of connecting with the next generations, they delegate that ministry to the youth adult and children's leaders. Pardon the poignancy here, but they hire a young leader and pass off their heart.

Recently, I heard the story of a lead-pastor who was so burdened for the children of the church that he spontaneously left the adult service and served in the children's worship service. He certainly wasn't desiring accolades or seeking to neglect the adult population of the church, but he had experienced a cultural shift in his heart. I believe that the missing ingredient for placing "other generations above my generation" is heart.

Now allow me to share the disclaimer for those who may feel that I am delegitimizing generational preferences, music styles, or even personal convictions. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the cultural idiosyncrasies of your generation. By all means, enjoy them in your personal time and space. Enjoy them whenever possible.

However, allow me to inspire you with a different approach when mixing and mingling with other generations in collective worship and service. In private, enjoy your generational preferences; but in public, learn to place the other generations above your generation.

In fact, if you find yourself struggling with it, ask the Holy Spirit for a "turning of the heart," and I believe that just as our Heavenly Father turned His heart toward His adopted children, we will learn to turn our hearts toward the adopted children of the next generations.

Remember our definition of culture: *The sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.* How can we see a culture shift without witnessing a transmission of it from one generation to another?

Loved ones, as we move toward the first chapter of a 2nd-Century PCG, let us decide to create our PCG culture by design and not default. If we will place "Mission above the Machine," "People above Our Preferences," and "Other Generations above My Generation," I believe a cultural shift will occur that will catalyze us toward One Mission—One Movement. Remember, God blesses motion and not just notion. So, as leaders of the Pentecostal Church of God, let's not only affirm these together, but live them together. Selah.

MALACHI 4:5-6 DECLARED, "BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH... AND HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS..."

UNITY... IN THE CHURCH, IN THE PCG

BY REV. GLENROY POWELL

No team, organization, group, family, business, or church will ever find true success or fulfillment without being unified. That's because unity is a powerful force for achieving great things which otherwise could not be accomplished alone. Time and again, the concept of unity is asserted, promoted, and encouraged throughout the Scriptures. A few verses come to the forefront: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30); "ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you..." (1 Corinthians 1:10); "of one heart and of one soul ... they had all things common" (Acts 4:32).



God knows and understands the strength of (and need for) a united people to fulfill His purpose. That's why He encourages unity and commands it among His people. Keeping this in mind, consider these two points:

- As the Pentecostal Church of God takes hold of the vision of “One Mission—One Movement,” it's clear *we must develop a culture of unity.*
- As a movement, we believe God has given us this God-encounter mandate, which transcends sectors and borders and necessitates the involvement of all who are PCG.

A CULTURE OF UNITY

One of the simplest and yet evocative definitions of *culture*: It's what gives people “a sense of who they are, of belonging, of how they should behave, and of what they should be doing” (*Managing Cultural Differences*, Moran, Harris and Moran). When we develop a culture of unity—whether in a local church or applied to a broader movement—it becomes a way of life (fully integrated in all facets of our existence), and that extends to pastoral work traversing diverse ministries.

Fostering a culture of unity is achieved through practice and learning. It's important to note that our authentic, unified efforts must be observable because culture is learned through interaction, observation, and imitation. Once a culture is developed, it then begins to change. So, as we cultivate a genuine oneness, it will expand to embrace our fellow workers in Christ—advancing the movement that includes people from varying backgrounds, cultures, languages, and worship styles in over 60 different countries. God has called us to be united to fulfill His mission!

GO TO THE ANT

A reminder of the command to be fully unified (and live this out as a cultural way) can be found in the directive “Go to the ant...” (Proverbs 6:6-8). Not long ago, I watched a documentary on army ants that truly drives home the practical applications to be learned by observing these mighty creatures. On their way home to the nest, the worker ants, which are much smaller than the soldiers, encountered an obstacle—a branch that was about 40 times their size. They released a pheromone that immediately brought the bigger ants to their assistance. Now these ants were completely blind, but it was amazing to see how unified they were in their efforts. Some got under the branch and began lifting while others were pulling and pushing. It was as if they were fully synchronized—lifting, pulling, and pushing in unison until the obstacle was moved and their work could continue.

As a Church and a movement, we too can be connected. When an obstacle presents itself anywhere in our movement, those with the needed gifts and skills will make themselves available. We will be directed by the Holy Spirit (our pheromone) to clear the way so God's Kingdom may advance.

WE MUST BE UNITED BECAUSE...

God is united in His person and in the Trinity.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are in perfect union and harmony. They are united in all their works (in creation and redemption).

Jesus demonstrated it.

Jesus made it very clear that He did nothing without the Father. The words He spoke were the Father's, and the work he did was the Father's. He and the Father are one.

“
AS WE
CULTIVATE
A GENUINE
ONENESS,
IT WILL
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TO EMBRACE
OUR
FELLOW
WORKERS
IN CHRIST.
”

Jesus prayed for us to be one.

Jesus knew the absolute necessity of being fully united to be effective. He prayed that His church would be unified in the same manner as He and the Father.

The apostles taught it.

Paul understood the strength of unity, so he rebuked the Corinthian church for its divisiveness and strongly encouraged all the other churches to be united. Think about some of his expressions:

- “Be of the same mind one toward another.” – *Romans 12:16*
- “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.” – *Philippians 2:2*
- “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God...” – *Romans 15:6*
- “Ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” – *1 Corinthians 1:10*

The Bible and history bear evidence.

From the Tower of Babel to the New Jerusalem, the Bible repeatedly shows the strength and the power of unity. In the tower story, even though the people were going against God's will, they would have achieved their goal because they were determined and united—until God intervened and stopped them. As written in Genesis 11:6 (NKJV): “And the LORD said, ‘Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.’” Just imagine what we as the PCG can accomplish for Christ when we are united to do His will *with* His blessings and anointing!

From the day of Pentecost to the latest revival, among all the components of prayer, surrender, humility, and a hunger for God, there will also be found a spirit of unity (one accord, one heart, togetherness, and unification).

BUILDING UNITY

We build unity as we trust in God. Just as God is love, ultimate unity is found in God. This is what Jesus demonstrated when He prayed for His disciples to be one, even as He and the Father are one (John 17:11, 21). Reflect on the Godhead being three distinct “persons” intricately united in their relationship, work, and purpose. So, as we trust God and surrender to Him, He gives us one heart to be unified in Him.

Unity is ultimately the work of God in His people, as it is He (Himself) who joins us together. God made clear that unity was primarily His work in the lives of a people who have turned to him; as He states, “I will give them one heart” (Jeremiah 32:39, Ezekiel 11:19).

HEAR GOD'S WORD

Whether it's in a local church or in the larger movement, we must conclude that it is God who placed us where we are. After being fully assured of God's plans, then we must value those whom God has determined will serve

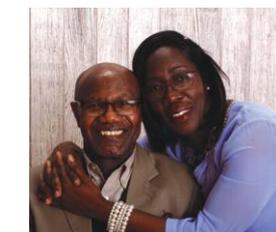
alongside us. Unity is the only logical step since God has called us and placed us together.

We can unite because we are assured of God's Word to us. The vision presented to us in One Mission—One Movement is not new but rather a repositioning of the Pentecostal Church of God's original vision and commission. We can be assured this is God's Word for us in this time; thus, we can be unified in our work for the Lord.

PUT IN THE WORK, FULFILL THE VISION

Paul talked about “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” in Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV). Since the term *endeavor* means to try, attempt, struggle, or strive, we are made to understand that unity does not develop and grow in passivity. Instead, it requires some effort on everyone's part to develop and maintain unity in our churches and movement. Therefore, it must be encouraged, worked on, strengthened, and advanced by all of us in the Pentecostal Church of God.

When we are truly united and have developed a culture of unity, then, with one heart, we will see God's vision for us. Best of all, we will gladly respond to the Holy Spirit's leading us to where our gifts are most beneficial, while supporting those whom God has called to serve with us.



During his 30-plus years in ministry, Rev. Glenroy Powell has pastored at four PCG churches in Jamaica and the United States, plus spent more than 10 years as the youth ministry director for the Capital District. He has also worked with the State of Delaware as a youth rehabilitation counselor, volunteer services coordinator, and chaplain for

the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) for five major facilities. Currently, Rev. Powell serves as bishop of the Northeast District and pastor of Family Pentecostal Church in Dover, Delaware, where he resides with his wife, Colette, and daughter, Janae.



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THE CHURCH CALL

DISCIPLESHIP PLANNING & THE CULTURE OF CALLING

BY DR. JOSHUA C. PENNINGTON

The Church—the people of God—remains clearly distinguishable from all adherents of other world religions. This community exists as a living movement of God's presence throughout creation. In his book *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*, Craig Van Gelder explains the Church's distinction:

"The church is more than what meets the eye. It is more than a set of well-managed ministry functions. It is more than another human organization. The church lives in the world as a human enterprise, but it is also the called and redeemed people of God. It is a people of God who are created by the Spirit to live as a missionary community. As such, the church is both a social organization and a spiritual community."

What does it mean to be the called and redeemed people of God? What does it mean to be a missional community? The answers to these questions are many; however, the fundamental answer remains rooted in the nature of discipleship. The identity of the Church does not lie in its liturgical practices, devotional rituals, or even the grandeur of the finest cathedrals. The identity of the Church exists in its calling to make disciples—nothing more, nothing less. The mandate to make disciples did not come only from the lips of the apostles, but rather it came from Jesus himself (Matt. 28:19).



Calling entails two distinct aspects. Many refer to these aspects as primary and secondary callings. The primary calling consists of the supreme or ultimate calling of every believer, the call to someone—Jesus. Although the word *Christian* conveys discipleship, the discipleship being discussed here is not nominal Christianity. It is a radical devotion to Christ, a complete surrender of the whole person—the head, heart, hands, and feet. In other words, the believer completely surrenders his or her thinking, affections, and behaviors to and under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Because of this complete surrender, the believer becomes a missional witness to the world.

“THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH EXISTS IN ITS CALLING TO MAKE DISCIPLES...”

The secondary calling refers to the context of one’s vocation, the where and what of His calling. Seminaries and universities remain equipped and skilled to produce pastors, teachers, missionaries, counselors, and other ministers. Although this benefits the sustainment and empowering of the Church, such work does not represent the supreme calling. Confusing such ministry with the supreme calling means we have become title-driven instead of towel-driven.

While the Scriptures do not frown upon titles or positions (1 Tim. 3:1), the true qualifications of the position require a believer to be a fully devoted, obedient follower of Christ. The secondary calling, however, results as a byproduct of the believer who walks in the primary

calling. As a result, vocational functions remain only as healthy as a person’s walk as a disciple. Moral failures and character issues of church leaders can always be traced back to one’s failure to walk as a fully devoted follower of Christ.

Most church leaders do not fail in the ministry because they didn’t have talents and giftings, they fail because they have not fully surrendered their heads, hearts, hands, and feet to Christ. St. Augustine said it best: “Jesus Christ is not valued at all until He is valued above all.” Therefore, identity is not found in what or where He calls us, it is found in the Person who calls. The Apostle Paul demonstrates this truth when he frequently referred to himself as a bondservant before his title as apostle (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1). If the Church places more emphasis upon developing vocational callings rather than disciples, it will dwell on trends rather than truth, hype over holiness, structure over mission, preferences over people, and performance over power.

In the New Testament, the word *church* appears frequently. A translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, it comes from the verb root *kaleo*, which means “to call.” In other words, the Church exists as a community of believers who are called. God calls the Church into this world for a unique reason—His purpose. Romans 8:28 echoes this principle: “We are called according to His purpose.” His purpose for the

Church is clear: to make disciples. He calls us to reproduce disciples in every neighbor we meet, every neighborhood we live in, and every nation that we call home.

So how does the Church foster a culture of calling? A plethora of methods and strategies prove useful for guidance in making disciples. Aubrey Malphurs’s *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry* is an excellent source for developing a successful discipleship plan. Developing a discipleship plan remains essential for Christians to grow and mature into missional believers. Church leadership must remain intentional or it won’t happen. Nothing happens by accident. It takes focus and consistency for anything to work.

Someone once said that growth is the great alienator, so if believers do not grow together, they will grow apart. I would suggest a plan that entails a holistic view of discipleship: *Head (right thinking)—the Word. Heart (right affections)—worship. Hands (right living)—service. Feet (right direction)—mission.*

Because discipleship is the primary call on the life of every believer, it is paramount that we view it exactly as such. The proper perspective will lead to a sounder and better-functioning church, and it

will help prevent a hierarchical mentality in church leadership that sometimes results in the laity feeling “less than.” A proper perspective of the primary calling leaves believers with the sense that they remain just as important as those in vocational ministry.

“DEVELOPING A DISCIPLESHIP PLAN REMAINS ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTIANS TO GROW AND MATURE INTO MISSIONAL BELIEVERS.”



Dr. Joshua C. Pennington exemplifies a unique blend of pastoral ministry, evangelism, theological teaching, and leadership in both the pulpit and the boardroom, which he passionately shares with the Body of Christ. Since September 2010, he has been the lead pastor of the thriving, spirit-filled Christpoint Church in Galena, Kansas. Training and teaching his church and staff how to become true disciples of Christ is his heart’s desire.

SUMMERFEST



GATLINBURG · TN
JUNE 18-21, 2018

SUMMERFEST

TEEN & KID TALENT RESULTS



PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL FIRST-PLACE WINNERS WERE AVAILABLE FOR PICTURES.
TEEN & KID PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY COLEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

TEEN RESULTS

- 1. ART**
 1st Place: Meara Perkins
 2nd Place: Trinity Hurd
 3rd Place: Allison Jones
- 2. DIMENSIONAL ART**
 1st Place: Christy Dunlap
 2nd Place: Grace Gelofofsack
 3rd Place: Lindsey & Anna
- 3. PHOTOGRAPHY**
 1st Place: Mark Holguin
 2nd Place: Madison Ratliff
 3rd Place: Emily Coleman
- 4. POETRY**
 1st Place: Helen McMahon
 2nd Place: Josh Bond
 3rd Place: Gabrielle Fisher
- 5. SHORT FILM**
 1st Place: Antonio Mecham
 2nd Place: Doc Headz Studios
 3rd Place: Jordan Young
- 6. SHORT STORY**
 1st Place: Lydia Amos
 2nd Place: Trey Atkeisson
 3rd Place: Charity Smith
- 7. SONGWRITING**
 1st Place: Dylan Cain
 2nd Place: Julie Corum
 3rd Place: Jaya Johnson
- 8. GRAPHIC DESIGN**
 1st Place: Elijah Stolarz
 2nd Place: Jacob Briley
 3rd Place: Adrianna Patterson
- 9. CHRISTIAN BAND**
 1st Place: Diversity
 2nd Place: One Way Band
 3rd Place: One Way
- 10. CHRISTIAN COMEDY**
 1st Place: Abby & Mia
 2nd Place: Gibson Sistas
 3rd Place: Francesca & Jaya
- 11. CHRISTIAN RAP**
 1st Place: Christian Lane
 2nd Place: DJ Peyton
 3rd Place: Mark Holguin
- 12. DRUMS/PERCUSSION**
 1st Place: Jace Cox
 2nd Place: Blade Byrum
 3rd Place: Vinton Hines Jr.

- DISTRICT**
 Southern Missouri
 Northeast
 Kentucky
- Arkansas
 Ohio
 Arkansas
- Central California
 East Texas
 East Texas
- Northern California
 Southern Missouri
 Southwest Texas

- 13. FEMALE VOCAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Jodi Mendoza
 2nd Place: Ainsley Curtis
 3rd Place: Shania Wauchope
- 14. HUMAN VIDEO**
 1st Place: Chazak Amats
 2nd Place: Atomic Youth
 3rd Place: With His Strength
- 15. INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE**
 1st Place: Diversity
 2nd Place: White Rock
 3rd Place: Nettleton
- 16. INSTRUMENTAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Elijah Westmoreland
 2nd Place: Isalah Rowe
 3rd Place: Trevor Waggoner
- 17. INTERPRETIVE DANCE GROUP**
 1st Place: Angelic Worshippers Principals
 2nd Place: Angelic Worshippers Advanced
 3rd Place: Water Walkers
- 18. INTERPRETIVE DANCE SOLO**
 1st Place: Sojourner Fontiello
 2nd Place: Shatia Morris
 3rd Place: Niko Whitney
- 19. MALE VOCAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Isaiah Owens
 2nd Place: Tyler Warren
 3rd Place: Isaac Bulamu
- 20. VOCAL ENSEMBLE**
 1st Place: Jada & Rocky
 2nd Place: Trinity Youthful Praise
 3rd Place: Grace & Dylan
- 21. PERSUASIVE SPEAKING**
 1st Place: Michael Norwood
 2nd Place: Shannan Hall
 3rd Place: Makayla Jackson
- 22. THEATRICAL**
 1st Place: Nettleton
 2nd Place: NLT
 3rd Place: Revival Center
- 23. SPANISH SOLO**
 1st Place: Francesca Stolarz
 2nd Place: Jaya Johnson

- Central California
 Arkansas
 Northeast
- Georgia
 Arkansas
 Northeast
- Central California
 Arkansas
 Arkansas
- East Texas
 Northeast
 Southern Missouri
- Northeast
 Northeast
 Northern California
- Northeast
 Northeast
 Arkansas
- Central California
 Southern Missouri
 East Texas
- Kentucky
 Northeast
 Tennessee
- East Texas
 Mid-Atlantic Coast
 Northeast
- Arkansas
 Southern Missouri
 Michigan
- Northern California
 Northern California



2018

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

PRIMARY • ALL STARS

- 1st Place: Emma Oliver
 2nd Place: Leah Osbourne
 3rd Place: Archer Fearnley
 4th Place: Bailei McFarland
 5th Place: Eli Collins

- Southern Missouri District
 Northeast District
 Michigan District
 Arkansas District
 Southern Missouri District

- Radiant Life Church
 Trinity PCG
 Higher Praise
 Living Faith Church
 Radiant Life Church

Avg. Points/Quiz

125.0
 100.0
 97.14
 85.0
 83.0



PRIMARY • TEAMS

- 1st Place: Northeast District
 2nd Place: Arkansas District
 3rd Place: Michigan District

- Trinity PCG
 Faith Assembly of God
 Higher Praise

JUNIOR • ALL STARS

- 1st Place: Jordyn Dingler
 2nd Place: Rensford Greene Jr.
 3rd Place: Noah Buehler
 4th Place: Alexis Bennett
 5th Place: Kaylee Brown

- Michigan District
 Northeast District
 Southern Missouri District
 Arkansas District
 Michigan District

- Higher Praise
 Trinity PCG
 Radiant Life Church
 Faith Assembly of God
 Calvary Worship Center

117.14
 106.11
 105.0
 90.71
 78.0



JUNIOR • TEAMS

- 1st Place: Northeast District
 2nd Place: Michigan District
 3rd Place: Southern Missouri District

- Trinity PCG
 Higher Praise
 Solid Rock Church

SENIOR • ALL STARS

- 1st Place: Stormie Jinks
 2nd Place: Amelia Simmons
 3rd Place: Abram Shafer
 4th Place: Charity Smith
 5th Place: Brianna Waggoner

- Arkansas District
 Michigan District
 Michigan District
 Arkansas District
 Southern Missouri District

- Humnoke PCG
 Calvary Worship Center
 Higher Praise
 White Rock Light of Faith
 Radiant Life Church

98.33
 86.25
 85.83
 85.71
 67.86



SENIOR • TEAMS

- 1st Place: Michigan District
 2nd Place: Southern Missouri District
 3rd Place: Southern Missouri District

- Higher Praise
 Radiant Life Church
 Solid Rock Church



KID RESULTS

- 24. ART**
 1st Place: Hadassah Sherwood
 2nd Place: Adonai Aarons
 3rd Place: Donovan Vasquez
- 25. DIMENSIONAL ART**
 1st Place: Madison Factor
 2nd Place: Eli Dent
 3rd Place: Madison Smith
- 26. POETRY**
 1st Place: Hailey Sullivan
 2nd Place: Taylor Martin
 3rd Place: Kailey Dingle
- 27. SHORT STORY**
 1st Place: Tarryn Worley
 2nd Place: Ayla Crite
 3rd Place: Gianna Stolarz
- 28. PHOTOGRAPHY**
 1st Place: Abigail Hammond
 2nd Place: Eli Dent
 3rd Place: Liam Copeland
- 29. CHRISTIAN COMEDY**
 1st Place: Carson Rowland
 2nd Place: Kailey & Gwenevere
 3rd Place: Andrew & Jacob
- 30. DRUMS/PERCUSSION**
 1st Place: Kylie Williams
 2nd Place: Liam Copeland
 3rd Place: Gwenevere Stolarz

- DISTRICT**
 Central
 Northeast
 East Texas
- Ohio
 Ohio
 Indiana
- Arkansas
 Kentucky
 Northern California
- North Texas
 Arkansas
 Northern California
- East Texas
 Ohio
 Southern Missouri
- Ohio
 Northern California
 Central California
- Arkansas
 Southern Missouri
 Northern California

- 31. FEMALE VOCAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Emma Beth Francis
 2nd Place: Shaylee Phillips
 3rd Place: Lily Carter
- 32. HUMAN VIDEO**
 1st Place: TFG Juniors
 2nd Place: Extreme Kids
 3rd Place: ALM
- 33. INSTRUMENTAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Keoghan Stoddard
 2nd Place: Ben Kelley
 3rd Place: Joshua Grant
- 34. INTERPRETIVE DANCE GROUP**
 1st Place: Angels of Praise
 2nd Place: Angelic Worshippers Intermediate
 3rd Place: Fusion Girls
- 35. INTERPRETIVE DANCE SOLO**
 1st Place: Trinity Kargbo
 2nd Place: Ava Phillips
 3rd Place: Hailey Sullivan
- 36. MALE VOCAL SOLO**
 1st Place: Donovan Vasquez
 2nd Place: Cross Smith
 3rd Place: Keston Taylor
- 37. VOCAL ENSEMBLE**
 1st Place: Living Faith Walkers
 2nd Place: Emma Beth & Ava Grace
 3rd Place: Arise Kids
- 38. PERSUASIVE SPEAKING**
 1st Place: Kayanna Moore
 2nd Place: Kailey Dingle
 3rd Place: Damont Jackson Jr.

- DISTRICT**
 Arkansas
 Arkansas
 Mid-Atlantic Coast
- Ohio
 East Texas
 Mid-Atlantic Coast
- Michigan
 East Texas
 Northeast
- Northeast
 Northeast
 Arkansas
- Kentucky
 Arkansas
 Arkansas
- East Texas
 Georgia
 Arkansas
- Arkansas
 Arkansas
 East Texas
- Northeast
 Northern California
 East Texas

THE JOURNEY HOME

LYDIA AMOS • AGE 17 • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Urban cityscape rushed past a thousand feet below. David Joshua Goren peered out the narrow, oblong window. He noticed the landing strip as the aircraft descended into Israel. A surge of excitement filled his soul as his long-desired dream transformed into reality. Israel, his heart, his hope, his land, and now, for the first time in seventy-six years of life, he was home. His face split with a smile as he suppressed the rising tears, the emotions churning deep within his chest.

David sighed with satisfaction, overjoyed with his arrival. The Christian company he'd traveled with offered eight-day tours through the Holy Land. Together with David, nineteen companions breathlessly awaited to behold the land their Savior walked. David thrilled with rippling thoughts of the beautiful, powerful, and influential places Jesus lived, breathed, and enlightened the masses, but he came to Israel for even more.

The airplane's rubber wheels glided on the black pavement bringing him closer to the large building with white letters which read: Ben Gurion Airport. The soft hum of the engine and the slight vibration in the coach stilled. The pilot announced their arrival in Tel Aviv. David handed the half-empty Coca-Cola in his wrinkled fist to the blond flight attendant. "Have an excellent visit, sir." She smiled.

"Thank you," He read the nametag on her coat, "Myah."

She grinned wider, revealing her perfect white teeth, and helped him to his feet. David sauntered after Mr. Concord, who ushered all the tour group through the airbridge. As he entered the terminal, he noticed a large sign which said, "Welcome to Israel" in both English and Hebrew. Once again the buried emotions of longing and anguish clutched at his throat mixed with newfound joy and peace he'd discovered with his Savior, Jesus Christ. God answered his prayers and here he stood in Israel.

As a boy, his parents told him about his people and their home, how God promised this land to Abraham thousands of years ago and how Moses delivered them from a foreign land and brought them to it's brink.

And how Joshua, for whom he received his name, led them to victory here and established it as their new dwelling. God gave them this land.

David could remember the desire in his parents' eyes, like an unquenchable fire, whenever they spoke of Israel. Many years had passed since they'd laid eyes on the land of their fathers. They lived in Poland at the time, where David and his sister Sarah came into the world. This, of course, occurred before the Nazis invaded and incarcerated his family in Sachsenhausen. A tear escaped David's eye and snaked down to his chin, the years of horror playing through his mind like a film. He saw his father and mother shot dead and watched as his seven-year-old sister died of starvation. He could see the train that carried him, the single survivor of his family, to Auschwitz. Death spared him alone. God in his sovereignty allowed him to remain alive. If he had died, he never could have known Jesus as the Messiah nor learned how to forgive the evil men who brutally killed his family and persecuted his fellow Jews.

Upon release in 1945, he traversed through European refugee camps until he found a way to America. There he'd lived for the past sixty-four years. But the time came for him to go home. To go home for his parents who always wanted to return, for his precious sister, and for the six million other Jews who never could return to their beloved promised land. And now he'd made it. He'd come home.

"Mr. Goren?" The voice cut into his thoughts. He turned. Mr. Concord, from the travel agency, stood a few feet away. "Mr. Goren, we're going to retrieve our luggage before we meet the driver out front."

"Right. Sorry, I must have lost myself in thought." He smiled apologetically and ambled to rejoin the tour group.

Now to go see this magnificent land God has blessed my people with, he mused. David offered up a silent thank you to his Lord. He would be forever grateful to HaShem for allowing him this treasured visit before he called him to his true home, Heaven.

THE SILENCE MAKER

HAILEY SULLIVAN • AGE 12 • ARKANSAS DISTRICT

Once I was afraid of the dark
I heard the bumps, the thuds and the barks,
I covered my head and wrapped the blanket tighter around,
Only to hear still every sound.

One cold Sunday I heard of a man that brought light to the dark
That silenced the bumps, thuds, and those barks,
I uncovered my head and loosed the blanket around,
to hear of His unconditional love, that would silence those sounds.

Now it's Sunday, and Jesus has given me light in the dark,
I no longer hear the bumps, thuds, and barks,
I take out my Bible and wrap my mind around,
He has given me complete peace and silenced all those sounds.

HEAVEN'S PRECIOUS FEET

HELEN MCMAHON • AGE 16 • NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Despite the endless noisiness of life that flickers by,
there is a soul who rests at peace, and slumbers deep inside.
A tiny baby boy is brewing, hid from you and I;
His heart is beating, body growing, held in Jesus' eye.

And as he grows, the Lord is working, knitting him with care;
his teeny eyes, and little hands and dark-as-midnight hair.
His feet will run in fields of green, his lungs will breathe in air,
and then the love of God he'll learn, and never cease to share.

Then there is a change of heart that comes with something known;
a fear is born and hatred felt at the seed inside that's sown.
The baby's tiny ears do burn, filling with displeasure shown;
his mother doesn't want him, will not take him as her own.

From Jesus' hands she takes- roughly, body casts aside,
that crazy hair, and lovely voice, that never even cried.
Those precious feet and hands and eyes and tiny little mind;
she will not see him, won't confess the life that she's denied.

Jesus holds the tiny baby, bleeding, bruised, cruelly broken.
Little fingers hold to his, and cry for love never spoken.
His fragile eyes blink open wide, see light that's almost golden,
but then they close, to see no more, never to reopen.

There is a moment, as he's dying, Jesus holds him near.
His heart is breaking, shoulders shaking, face drenched in tears.
This baby boy was meant for much, this baby boy so dear.
His life was taken! Oh, this world! Fraught with lack and fear.

The baby's precious spirit rises from his tiny frame;
Jesus smiles at baby boy whose spirit shines as flame,
Takes him by his glowing hand, and leads him far away
to a better place, a greater love, to give him his new name.

To the endless fields of heaven, the baby boy is led.
He looks with eyes of golden-green, beholding all ahead.
The Throne of God Most High Above is far beyond his head.
Holding tight to Jesus' hand he takes each careful tread.

The God of Hosts and King of All looks down with loving eye.
He takes the child in his hand, and sets him close beside.
He looks inside those glowing eyes, and here is the surprise;
that baby boy, with midnight hair, giggles loud and high.

He leaps into his father's arms and snuggles down, with glee.
For here his home is safe and sure, and happy he will be
To run in endless fields of green, barefoot, feeling free;
and feel the love of God fulfilled, that love to fully see.

Come and see what all the excitement is about...

MC EXPERIENCE DAYS

OCTOBER 19-20, 2018

visit messengercollege.edu for more information.

**WORLD
CHANGERS
GATHER
HERE.**

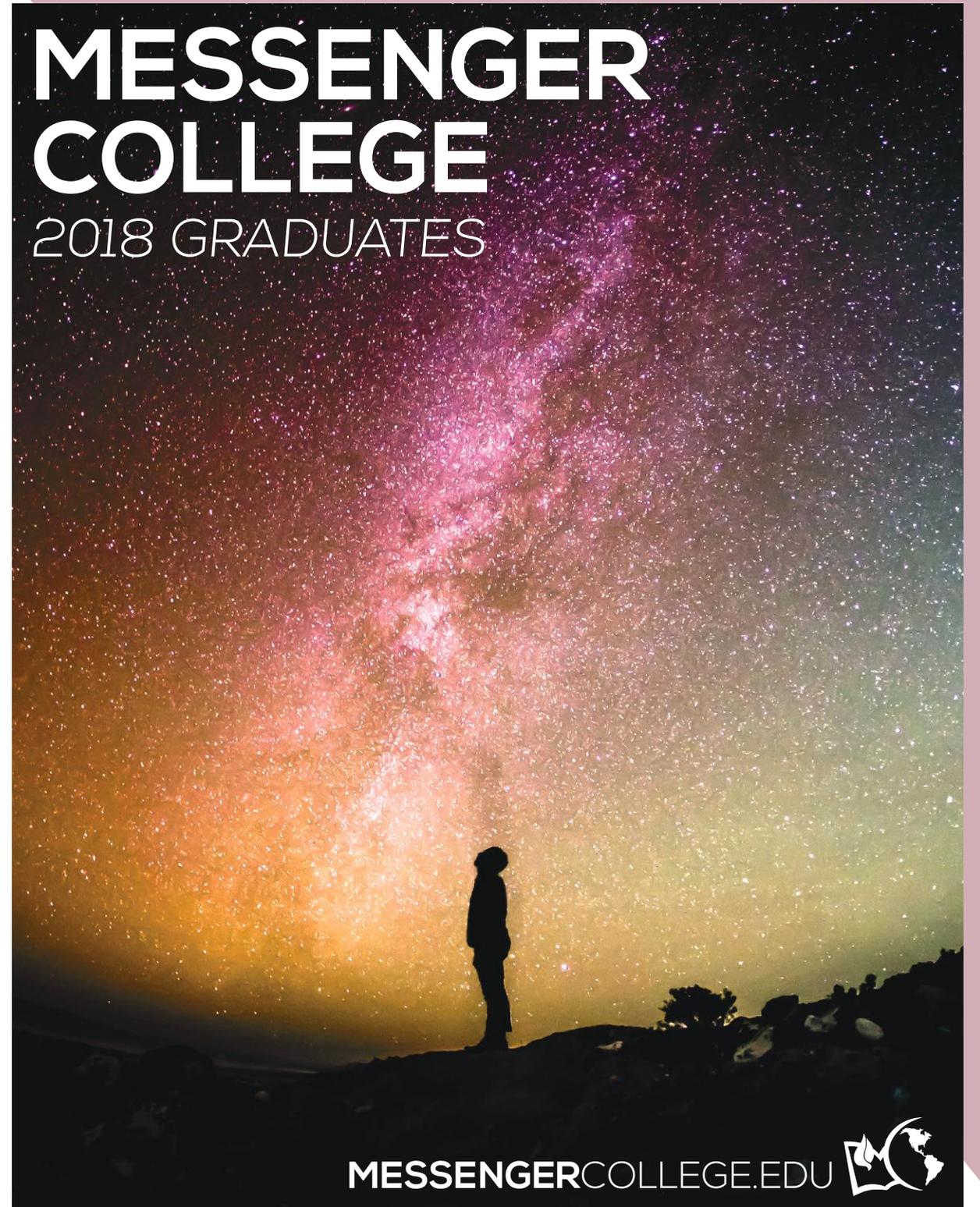


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FOCUSED ACADEMICS | SPECIALIZED TRAINING | PRACTICAL

MESSENGER COLLEGE

2018 GRADUATES



MESSENGERCOLLEGE.EDU



CONGRATULATIONS

MESSENGER COLLEGE CLASS OF 2018

DALLAS CAPPS



As a 15-year-old at church camp, Dallas had an encounter with God and says that's where God called him to ministry—even though he did not embrace that call until the age of 19. He met his wife, Jessica, in high school in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and they married in 2010. After earning an associate degree from Tulsa Community College, he focused on family, ministry, and work. In 2009, Dallas joined the Pentecostal Church of God and was ordained in 2013. During his first pastorate, God directed him toward finishing his bachelor's degree at Messenger College. He had already completed two levels of the PCG's credentialing study series when he began at MC and was excited to further enhance his biblical understanding and knowledge, plus take business courses to better equip him for the ministry. He currently serves as the Oklahoma District youth director and is very thankful that God's love has given him life and ultimate purpose. Dallas and Jessica have two amazing daughters: Isabelle (4) and Noelle (2½).

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

KAITLYN HUSONG



Kaitlyn Husong is passionate about missions and seeing God change the lives of His people. She holds a BA in Christian Ministries with an emphasis in Intercultural Ministry from Messenger College. Kaitlyn and her husband, JP, serve as the PCG missionaries to Nicaragua. They enjoy watching their two kids, Briley (2) and Amaziah (1), learn and grow.

"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

ANDREA NEVILLE



Andrea lives in Castaic, California, with her husband of seven years, James (Jim); six-year-old son, Declan; and mother, Elaine. She was born and raised in the Midwest, but she traveled often and spent one year of high school in Germany as an exchange student. She served as a staff sergeant in the US Marine Corps during the first Gulf War and was a cryptologist and electronic intelligence analyst. Later, she moved to Ireland to study Irish dance and then relocated to Los Angeles, where she worked professionally as a lead dancer and choreographer for Kerry Records. Currently, she works for Capital Group in investment services product management. Andrea and Jim are very involved with their church, Higher Vision, where she teaches apologetics in the Spiritual Growth Institute and serves as a hostess/greeter, choir singer, dancer, and actor. She says the past three years with Messenger have strengthened her walk with the Lord, and she looks forward to taking the gospel out into the world and letting His light shine at all times, wherever God may lead her family.

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." - Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

HAILEE LYNN MING



Hailee Lynn Ming is 22 years old and a proud graduate of Messenger College! She took part in the learning program connected with Higher Vision Church and received her Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry-Biblical Studies. She was hired as the junior high director at Higher Vision Church and now oversees the creative department for their NextGen ministry. After developing a solid foundation and clear understanding of the Word of God during her time with Messenger, she is now living her dream! Because of the teachers and staff at MC and Higher Vision, she is ready to walk into the unknown—unashamed and unafraid to declare God's will for her life.

"Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NLT)

RYANNON FLORES



Messenger College served as a unique place for Ryannon Flores' unique call. Ryannon received her BA in Business Administration and is pursuing a career as a business professional and missionary destined to impact nations. During her time at Messenger, she met many amazing people, made lifelong friends, and learned about life and Jesus. She values all the moments she shared with her colleagues and is now eager to start her career as a world-changing leader.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." - Proverbs 31:25 (NLT)

TYLER PRICE



Tyler came to MC in the fall of 2013, and he proudly shares that the past five years have been the most incredible years of his life. God taught him many things and brought him to many places. He came to Messenger with the aspirations of one day being on a worship team and getting plugged into a church—not pursuing ministry full-time. As time went on, God revealed to him that He has so much more planned for his life. God not only called him to lead worship but to teach it as well. Tyler received his BA in Christian Ministries-Worship Ministry and plans to attend graduate school to continue his education in Worship Studies. His hope is to serve as a full-time worship leader and teach a new generation about the power of spirit-led, biblical worship.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." - 1 Corinthians 16:13

CHELSEA TERRY



Chelsea Terry grew up in church and has always had a missional heart. In her hometown of Madisonville, Kentucky, she devoted six years of her life to youth ministry until being appointed by the PCG General Missions Board as a mid-term, life-changer missionary. She has spent time in Chile, South America, and Guatemala. Chelsea received her BA in Christian Ministry-Intercultural Studies at Messenger College in Euless, Texas, and is employed by the PCG World Missions Department. Upon graduation, Chelsea plans to become a full-time PCG missionary, and she is anxiously awaiting her return to the mission field.

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand." - Psalm 37:23-24 (NLT)

TYLER STOREY



Tyler was a junior in high school when he first visited "Messenger College Days" (MC Experience). He recalls competing at a Summerfest at Joplin Family Worship Center and having his name drawn to win an iPod Touch. He thought: *If I win that iPod Touch, I will for sure go to Messenger College.* What happened in the next few hours changed his life. His name was drawn for the grand prize! After having his iPod for a couple of days, he realized his decision was made! Now, Tyler serves as a youth pastor and applies his education and training to ministry on a daily basis.

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" - Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

DARIO SARMIENTO



This life is full of twists and turns, but no matter the journey, God's calling on one's life cannot be ignored. Dario always knew he was supposed to serve in God's Kingdom, and after graduating from Messenger College, he feels prepared to serve and lead others. He is married to an amazing, wonderful woman of God, Kelsie Nicole, and is blessed to be raising two young men into God's Kingdom: Anthony (15) and Michael (11). He serves as a men's ministry leader at Higher Vision Church and has participated in two mission trips to Manaus, Brazil. As he enters seminary, Dario is excited to pursue his passion for studying the Bible and sharing about God's love for all people.

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave." - Matthew 20:26-27 (NKJV)

WHERE THERE'S A WILL (GOD'S WILL), THERE'S A WAY

BY ELISA JOHNSON

When the Holy Spirit is moving in a little church and the hunger is real, creativity becomes necessity. Now this particular church is located on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana; and while winters in Montana are rarely mild, this year proved to be a doozy. Yet even though the weather outside was frightful, the burning passion inside Lame Deer PCG has been unmistakable. After several weeks of people deciding to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, it became apparent that a water baptism was needed. (This is where the creativity came into play.) With no baptismal, and colder than average temperatures, how would we make this happen?

Last summer, the Lord, quite miraculously, provided a way for us to build a steel garage with a space inside for children's church. This was clearly the right location, but what would we use for the baptismal? After looking and praying, I decided on an inexpensive, inflatable pool. Yes, we could make it work! But I was not prepared for what God had in store for this rather humble setting on the scheduled day. People we hadn't seen in months came to church, and whole families were longing to make this public declaration. Some drove from more than a hundred miles away and others, who had never been before, came to support their loved ones.

While our precious body has quadrupled in the last three years, the attendance that beautiful day left me at a loss for words. God is drawing people to a deeper place, and their hunger is tangible. Even as we began baptizing, more people started lining up. By the time it was over, 16 people had been baptized, and more than 80 people were there to support them. For many, this may not seem too special. However, for our congregation which typically averages 50, it was monumental. Not because it's all about the numbers, but because it's all about the people. People who are choosing freedom, people who are choosing transformation, people who are choosing Jesus!

We are in the living, breathing heart of One Mission—One Movement! Knowing that God is calling people deeper—from rural, southeastern Montana to the heart of Africa—brings such a sweet reminder of how tender His heart is for every individual. And while His heart is for the individual, it is increasingly clear that we are better together. We are all connectively driven by the desire to see the Holy Spirit draw all people into life-changing relationships with the very One who created them.

We cannot wait to see how He continues to move in our region and around the world. If God can use an inflatable pool filled with brisk water and set on the concrete floor of our garage, there is truly no limit to what He can do with whatever creative tool He provides to bring transformation to wherever He calls us.

Elisa Johnson is an American Indian missionary based in Lame Deer, Montana. She also serves on the National Youth Leadership Team for the Yellowstone District.



OUT OF AFRICA... AND BACK AGAIN

BY KAREN MING

Fourteen years ago, when I stepped off an airplane in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I didn't know I'd begun a trip that would change my life. As I boarded the plane to leave two weeks later, I heard God say very clearly, "You'll be back."

And I have gone back. For more than a decade, God enabled me to travel every year to meet with the emerging leadership of the PCG. We prayed, we planned, and we heard God telling us to prepare for a movement that would impact all of Africa.

At the same time, God was preparing Wayman Ming Jr. to become the PCG general bishop and launch One Mission—One Movement. The ripple effect of his vision was felt in Africa by the bishops and over 1,000 leaders from 14 countries as they prepared to meet during the Africa Summit this past April.

In the months leading up to the conference, God said to me, "It's time." Nairobi, April 19-21, became that time. It will be remembered as a summit where pastors, leaders, and bishops caught the vision for One Mission—One Movement. They unified and chanted "Africa Arise, Africa Arise," as the Masai tribal singers and Calvary Covenant choir led in worship with lifted hands and dancing feet. This reminded me of how David must have danced with all his might.

Leaders from those 14 countries emerged with a humble passion and calling to plant more churches with well-trained pastors, which can now erupt into a global movement for the PCG and beyond.

I thank you all for helping launch this movement. You prayed, gave sacrificially, and encouraged us along the way. The Africa Summit would not have happened without your tremendous support.

Ephesians 4:1-4 tells us to live lives worthy of our calling, which includes humility, unity, and peace. It's time to realize our own personal calling for One Mission—One Movement. The time has come for all segments of the PCG organization—from the International Mission Center to the regions, districts, pastors, and congregations around the world—to be ready to take the steps we need to continue the launch of One Mission—One Movement. There are pastors and leaders to be trained, churches to be planted, and funds to be raised. The significant pieces of the movement are lining up and readying for God to bring growth to the PCG and beyond as never before. The Africa Summit was proof that "it's time" for Africa...and the world to find the lost, and the found to be sent.

Karen Ming is a PCG-ordained minister, and she serves as the field representative for East Africa.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

CULTIVATING A HEART OF MENTORSHIP

BY REV. KIMBERLY MING, DIRECTOR OF EMPOWERED WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



My beautiful friend Michelle was a young, single woman with a great personality. I enjoyed surface conversations with her on Sundays until she formally asked if I would be her mentor. As a young pastor's wife and mother of young sons (in the mid-to-late '90s), I struggled with how to answer this daunting question. Among my thoughts: *What were her expectations of me? How would mentoring look for us? What would I teach her?* The request seemed so overwhelming to me that I ended up avoiding it and continued in surface dialogue. We met for coffee a couple of times after that, but a true mentoring relationship never really formed.

A few years later, my heart began to change, and I knew we needed a women's mentoring ministry for those women who needed encouragement and leadership at the church. I developed one list of all those younger women who wanted a mentor and compiled another of the older women willing to serve as mentors. I prayerfully connected the names, requiring that each mentor and mentee meet once a week.

After providing Bible study material for 12 weeks, I hoped the relationships would solidify, and the younger women would grow in the Lord. While this worked for some, I have to say, it did not work for all. What I didn't learn until later is that mentoring cannot be forced but is, instead, simply based on the cultivation of a heart-to-heart relationship! It involves drawing on life experience and sharing that experience—mentor to mentee, older to younger.

Creating a culture of mentoring for the next generation is not the same as leading a women's Bible study—it is a lifestyle. Spiritual mothers and mentors don't need Bible college degrees or full-time ministry experience; they simply need to encourage younger women in their spiritual journeys. The beautiful verses in Titus 2:3-5 provide a calling for "older women to...train the young women." Scripture doesn't limit the age requirement for serving as a mentor. Even teen girls can mentor junior high girls as long as they love God and His Word, and their lives are bearing fruit in the Spirit.

Friend, if you are willing to pour your life into another woman's life with humility and dependence on God's grace, then you can mentor.

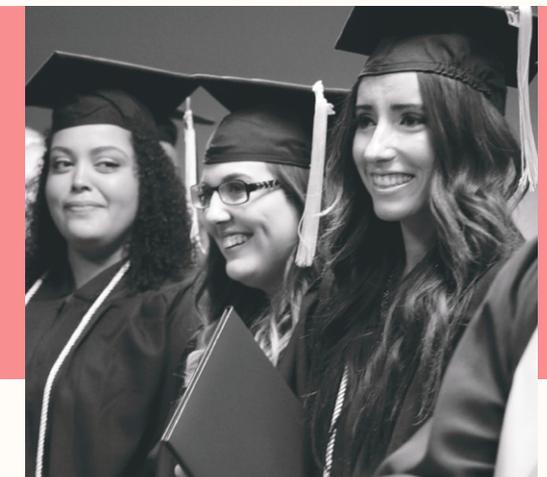
If, according to Titus, a Christian woman's mandate is to teach and train younger women how to live the Christian life, then we must ask an important question: *If we are not taking up that mandate to impart into the next generation of women coming behind us, then who is?*

Younger women want to be inspired to live for God. They are not looking for perfection in us, but they are hoping for genuine authenticity in the midst of real-life situations. It is not more information from books they are waiting for. Their real desire is to see and hear what other women have seen and heard from God, so they can experience that same kind of relationship with Him.

WAYS TO MENTOR A YOUNGER WOMAN

- Be intentional. Set times to meet/get together.
- Don't be afraid to be transparent and real. Let her see how God has led you and continues to lead you through difficult times.
- Open your heart and home. Sharing in your home can inspire a younger woman practically and spiritually in so many ways—from seeing how you run your home to parenting.
- For purposeful discipleship, begin by talking about the basics: salvation, grace, faith, God's love, the authority of Scripture, etc. Or, go through a Bible study together.
- Lend a listening ear, showing appreciation and value for her uniqueness and preciousness. There is healing power in the sharing of struggles with someone who is trustworthy and listens with compassionate understanding.
- As you mentor a young woman, encourage her to mentor someone else.

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HOW TO CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNGER WOMEN

- Call a young woman each week and ask how you can pray for her.
- Be intentional when you go to church. Sit next to a younger woman and encourage her after the service. If she shares a need, pray for her; then remember to ask her about it the following week.
- Build bridges between younger and older women in your church. Organize mixed gatherings. Include women of differing ages in prayer partnerships, Bible study groups, and big events. Ask the older women to invite younger women to these functions.



SOWING SEEDS OF PEACE



“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” – James 3:18

Growing up, we always had a garden. Every spring we planted tiny seeds of beans, corn, cucumbers, and squash (to name just a few) in overturned soil. It always amazed me how you can take a seed; put it under the dirt; give it fertilizer, water, and light; and watch a miracle begin to take place. It doesn't matter that the ground is many times the weight of the seed. The tiny seed presses against seemingly impossible odds, begins to blossom, and eventually produces a harvest.

The principle for peace is the same as the principle for crops. The amplified version of James 3:18 says, “And the seed whose fruit is righteousness (spiritual maturity) is sown in peace by those who make peace [by actively encouraging goodwill between individuals].” This verse would indicate that righteousness is sown by peacemakers. Jesus modeled this during his ministry on the earth. We see him cultivating inward harmony through acts of love and sowing seeds of peace. Jesus built bridges by healing hurts. He prevented conflict by touching the heart, and He cultivated harmony by sowing seeds of peace. Jesus, Himself, gave His life so that we might have peace with God. His whole being focused on redeeming—buying back that which was lost—and bringing life where there is death. Never underestimate the power of a seed!

I am most like Him when I, too, become a peacemaker, bringing peace where there is hostility, life where there is death. The verse in James is a picture of what we all must do to bring this harvest of righteousness about. We must sow seeds daily, weekly, for our whole lives, so that there will be peace. It is a choice we make, every day, every hour, as to what we are sowing and what we will reap.

The seeds I sow are in relationship to people in my everyday life. I must make decisions in my heart to sow a seed of peace where there may be strife. I must sow seeds of encouragement and faith through my words, seed by seed, choice by choice. It starts with each of us. We have the ability to bring about a harvest that will be ready for reaping in the final day when we meet Jesus.

It seems a lot of people waste time and energy being critical of others. There is a lot of anger, disappointment, jealousy, hate, and bitterness floating around in the lives of some people, which can drain the energy out of them and cause them to wonder where God has gone. James also spoke to this in the same passage where he taught about sowing peace. His words: “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:14-18, NKJV).

So, how are you doing at sowing seeds of peace? With your spouse, your friends, your co-workers, your children, your neighbors, in your community, and with your brothers and sisters in the Lord? Do you want to see a miracle? Plant a word of love in a person's life, shine on it with a smile, and then spread the fertilizer of prayer and watch what happens. Sowing seeds of peace is like planting seeds in the garden. You don't know why it works; you just know it does. Seeds are planted, and topsoil of hurt and pain begin to push away.

According to the Bible, besides sowing peace, we are also to extend peace (Isaiah 66:12), love peace (Zechariah 8:19), make peace (Isaiah 27:5), establish peace (Isaiah 26:12), preach peace (Acts 10:36), proclaim peace (Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:15), seek peace (Psalm 34:14; 1 Peter 3:11), speak peace (Esther 10:3; Psalm 85:8), and wear shoes of peace (Ephesians 6:15). If you seek to do these things each day, you'll be constantly sowing seeds of peace.

One Mission. One Movement. 

Dan Coleman is the general secretary of the Pentecostal Church of God.

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DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF *HUMILITY*



“Teaching Humility in the Age of Arrogance,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

“**H**umility isn’t a word that most academics—or Americans—identify with. Indeed, if there is a single attitude most closely associated with our culture, it’s the opposite of humility. The defining trait of the age seems to be arrogance ... the arrogance of thinking that you know it all and that you don’t need to improve because you are just so great already.”—Michael Patrick Lynch

The quote noted above accurately encapsulates the mentality of our culture and the campuses of our colleges. This arrogant culture has squelched free speech, meaningful debate, and has turned a deaf ear to any opposing views, especially if the viewpoints are Judeo-Christian based. True higher education was meant for discussion, debate, and consideration of diverse viewpoints to enhance and expand one’s thinking. Tragically, that is no longer the case, for an open mind has been replaced with a closed mind. This arrogance of academia is now the norm on our secular campuses and, sad to say, even some of our more liberal religious educational institutions. *True learning requires humility!*

In fact, the definition of *humility* according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary means “freedom from pride or arrogance; the quality or state of being humble.” So why is humility important to learning? In the realm of Christian education, it is essential. We are called to be disciples of Jesus. The term “disciple” in Greek is *mathetes*, which primarily means a learner, a student; it is where we get the word mathematics. A true disciple is a lifelong student/learner of Jesus Christ. Jesus laid the groundwork for true discipleship in Matthew 11:29 (NKJV): “Take My yoke upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

To the Jewish mind, the idea of taking up one’s yoke meant to attach oneself to the local rabbi and study the law under his tutelage. That is exactly what Jesus is saying here. *NOTE: Jesus is both the teacher and the curriculum.* Therefore, to hitch up with Jesus as His student, obviously, requires a good dose of humility. So, first of all, we need *humility in our approach to learning/education.*

Secondly, at the beginning of this lifelong journey of Christian education (or really “Christ-education”) is *humility in our approach to God.* Someone once said, God will never send you away empty unless you come to Him full of yourself. The first Beatitude in Matthew 5:3 states, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” This comes at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount because it is the very first step of life in the kingdom. The term “poor in spirit” literally means to take the posture of a beggar—one who is stooped over and beggarly. The beggar has nothing and, therefore, has nothing to offer. In our approach to God, how can there be any degree of arrogance? We do not swagger into the presence of God. As the old hymn affirms, “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling” (“Rock of Ages,” Augustus M. Toplady). Such humility in our approach to God sets the tone of a life that is open to His divine enlightenment ... and that’s an education!

Finally, there must be *humility in our approach to others.* Philippians 2:3 perfectly captures this approach: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” This attitude stands in stark contrast to the academic arrogance mentioned earlier. This approach respects, honors, and values the other person, and this includes his or her opinions and viewpoints. Though there may not be agreement, there is a meaningful exchange of ideas, healthy discussion, and debate. In the end, everyone benefits from such an atmosphere.

At Messenger College, we strive to provide a healthy educational environment that is conducive to being lifelong students of Jesus Christ. We are a true *Kononia community*—a family that honors, values, respects, and listens to each other. MC is a culture of humility! 📖

Vernell Ingle is the Christian ministry program chair for Messenger College and an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Church of God.



“This practical book is a serious remedy for all status quo, maintenance-mode Christian living.” -Dr. Wayman Ming Jr.

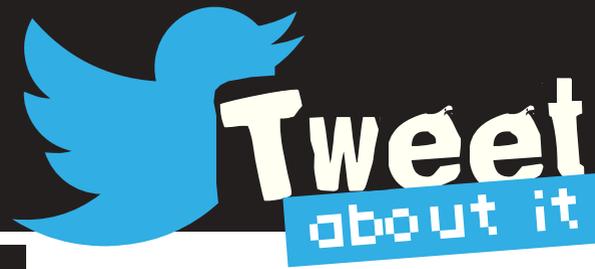


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@johnmarkskiles When it's time to take a step of Faith, believe you serve the God of miracles!! He will help you make it happen. ...every part of your flesh/self will tell you...you can't do it. Ignore it and do what God has called you to do. John 14:14 Ask! & Go!

@FionaLynnParker For pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense. -C.S. Lewis

@charlierock1941 All things are working for my good because he's INTENTIONAL!!
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@JoelOsteen If you live from big event to big event, waiting for something exciting to keep you encouraged, you're going to be disappointed. Learn to enjoy where God has you right now.

@ilclife You are a living, breathing miracle if you are here today! God wants to do miracles for you and he doesn't wait for us to be perfect. I am good enough for God to do a miracle for me because of the sacrifice of Christ!" -Pastor John Mark Skiles



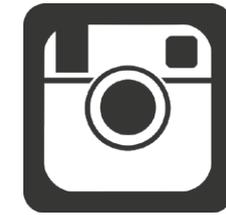
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