



Celebrating 100 Years
1910 - 2010

VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 72, No. 3

November 2010



*Give
thanks
to the
Lord for
He is
good!*



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
CALL ON HIS NAME;
MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE
NATIONS WHAT HE HAS DONE.

SING TO HIM, SING PRAISE
TO HIM; TELL OF ALL HIS
WONDERFUL ACTS.

GLORY IN HIS HOLY NAME;
LET THE HEARTS OF THOSE
WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE.

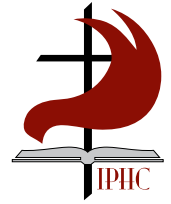
LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS
STRENGTH SEEK HIS FACE
ALWAYS.

PSA 105:1-4



Bishop's Page

PRESTON MATHENA



CHURCHES CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

This year has been the year of Centennial Celebration for the Virginia/Appalachian Conference. As part of that celebration, the five original congregations – Roanoke (New Life Christian Ministries), Piedmont, Radford (Radford Worship Center), Pulaski (Family Worship Center) and Montcalm, West Virginia – had special days of remembrance and commemoration. From August to October, these churches have conducted special days commemorating their history.

Historically, in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, the Holy Spirit was moving in a powerful way from Europe to the West Coast of California. In the United States, from Maine to California, the power of Pentecost was spreading like a fire energized by wind.

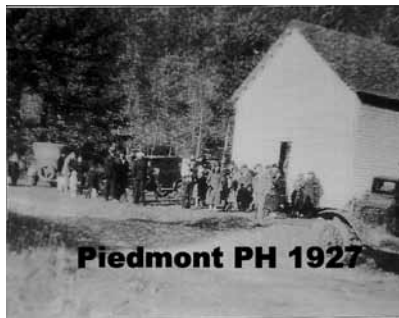


*Tabernacle on the Hill
Montcalm, West Virginia*

In a small, independent church in the Shenandoah Valley, Pentecost fell. The news of this revival made the publication written by William Seymour of the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California. This church would later join the Virginia/Appalachian Conference in 1951. This makes the Shenandoah Church the oldest organized church in the conference.

Evangelists were taking the Pentecostal gospel message everywhere, from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to the coal mining hills of West Virginia. Edward Reeves, Homer Clower, Erasmus (Raz) Clower, and D. B. Southern were some of the first apostolic evangelists to plant churches during these early days.

After 100 years churches have a tendency to become memorialized. This is because the original membership is gone, and as many as three generations have passed since the revival that birthed the church is long over. The congregation that exists has little or no connection



with the church's history or the church's forefathers. Some churches in this situation decline and even come to nonexistence. This is not the story of the five original Virginia/Appalachian Conference churches.

Today, the original churches are all vibrant and growing churches with new congregations and a spirit of renewal for the twenty-first



century. New Life Christian Ministries in Roanoke is now a congregation of over 800 with a goal to reach 1,000 by December 2010. The Radford Worship Center has a local community ministry that reaches

to hundreds each week. Family Worship Center has built a multi-million-dollar facility complete with a community playground that will rival any local government facility. Piedmont still holds an annual camp meeting that is listed in the National Historic Registry, and in coal-producing Mercer County, the Montcalm Pentecostal Holiness Church built a beautiful, modern facility housing a wonderful congregation.

Our written past tells us who we were and defines us as to who we are now. It is what we do with today that will take us into the future.



It is good to know our roots. It is from the roots that the plant draws its sustenance for the leaves to grow to fullness. But the scripture is clear when it says, "Today,

if you will hear his voice..." The power, anointing and experience of Pentecost will not continue with us because we can "remember when..." It will continue only if we keep alive the Pentecostal experience in our personal lives and church congregational services so that we can pass to the next generation the desire for the Holy Spirit and the Pentecostal experience.

In January 2011, we will celebrate the merger of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church and the Pentecostal Holiness Church. Our conference was originally organized as the former. Over the years we have evolved and grown, hopefully, in body and spirit. Our spiritual knowledge has advanced. Our government has been improved. Our vision has come to a new place in time. Only that which is alive sees this kind of change and growth. The Great Commission is still the same. Pentecost is



more prominent than ever before, and the Holy Spirit's anointing is more dynamic than ever to take us from five churches in 1910 to almost 200 in 2010. Let us join together to take the Pentecostal message into the 21st century.

Dr. C. R. Conner, Senior Pastor
Family Worship Center IPHC
Pulaski, Virginia

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Come Celebrate With Us!

Our Centennial Celebration
of the 1911 merger between the
Fire-Baptized Holiness Church and the
Pentecostal Holiness Church

January 30-February 1, 2011 – Falcon, North Carolina

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3 First Friday Fast
- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 21 Winter Begins
Conference Offices Close at 12 Noon
- 22-26 CONFERENCE OFFICES ARE CLOSED
- 29 Last day to receive Church & Ministers' Reports (12 Noon)
- 31 New Year's Eve
Conference Offices close at 12 Noon



RETIRED MINISTERS – DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

S. A. Franklin
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103rd Birthday



World Missions & Evangelism



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM MINISTRIES

LARRY MEADORS

DOES GOD REALLY BLESS MISSION-MINDED CHURCHES?

Pastor Ron Neff

One of the great highlights in the last 25-plus years of ministry at the Winchester Word of Life Church has been to watch the passion for World Missions grow from a flicker to a major definition of what our church is all about. It is truly a "mission-minded" church. We have been amazed to see what God can do through the people of a small church who are given the opportunity to be used by God around the world.

Since 1983, our annual giving to World Missions has increased over 3,800 percent from \$2,000 to \$76,000 in 2008. This year, our church will again exceed \$70,000 in missions giving for the third year in a row.

We promote World Missions Ministries year round. The first Sunday in March is our annual Faith Commitment Sunday, which is promoted months in advance. The first Sunday of each month is designated World Missions and Evangelism Day on which our youth present the flags of the nations and the monthly faith commitment offering is received. My message usually includes an evangelistic emphasis.

The evening service is sometimes highlighted by visiting missionaries and has included visitors from other countries. That service is designated as "Praying Around the World," with special time given to intercessory prayer for our missionaries and missions ministries.

On the third Sunday we receive our monthly building fund offering with 50 percent going to local church projects and the other 50 percent going to projects on the mission field. A percentage of our total monthly tithes and offerings is designated for Bible distribution around the world.

Wednesday night offerings are for Global Outreach. We are currently supporting 12 missionary couples and 50 People to People children, in addition to our Bible schools around the world and the Coffee House Ministry.

Approximately 85 percent of our congregation makes Faith Commitments, with 99 percent giving to missions over and above their tithe. We built a new sanctuary in 2000 and are debt free. Our finances remain strong in spite of the economic problems the world is facing. Many of our churches can and do give more to missions than ours, but none can give with more passion.

Does God really bless missions-minded churches? He has truly blessed this one. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Pastor Ron Neff and his wife, Janice, have pastored Winchester-Word of Life Ministries for 27 years.



GO: MISSIONARY TRAINING CENTER IN MAI SAI, THAILAND

Pastor Steve Willis

I am writing to share some exciting news with

you concerning a Missions Project in Thailand scheduled for January 17-31, 2011. The project is to build a Missions Training Center that will also house a local church. The location is Mai Sai, Thailand, strategically located near the Golden Triangle on the border of Burma and Laos. This is part of a long-term vision and plan for this area and will be a tremendous help to our ministry in that region. Our IPHC Overseas Ministry coordinators for this region, Jeff and Verna Willhoite, are coordinating this project.

Valley Harvest Ministries has stepped up to spearhead this project by raising funds and also sending a construction team. Pastor Paul Basham and the Mossy Living Word Church have also agreed to partner with us in this endeavor. We have several fundraising events lined up in the next couple of months and are pressing forward in faith. We are still quite a ways from our goal of \$25,000 needed for the project. Our team members are also working to raise travel expenses of \$2,000 each. Several of them have all their travel raised; others have not.

If God puts it on your heart to be a part of this great work, we would welcome your involvement. Checks may be sent to the Appalachian Conference Office earmarked "Thailand Training Center," or you may contact Pastor Steve Willis at Valley Harvest Ministries at 540-674-4729, or e-mail vhpastor@valleyharvestministries.com. Thank you so much for your prayers and partnership.

GROW:

The Church of the future must move from attractional to Incarnational, which is more interested in the harvest than in the barn." – Ed Stetzer

GIVE:





Discipleship Ministries

RON FREDERICKS

www.ac-dm.org



IPHC Fine Arts Talent Quest Program Expanding



The Fine Arts Talent Quest Committee announces a new program called Beyond Quest: Excel for 2011. It will extend specific Talent Quest categories for young adults (age 20-25) and give them the opportunity to participate in the Talent Quest Fine Arts Program, as well as continue to develop and stay involved in church ministry.

Competition will be on an individual basis in two divisions:

- **Division 1** will consist of Vocal, Instrumental and Communication Art categories.
- **Division 2** will consist of Creative Writing, Creative Arts, Video and Short Sermon categories. There will be no male/female separation or specific divisions.

Scholarships will be awarded to first, second and third place in each category and each division. First and second place winners in vocal, instrumental and communication arts [Division 1] will advance to a final competition on the Talent Quest national stage, where one national winner will be decided. The final decision will be made by a combination of judges' scores and a vote (similar to "America's Got Talent") from the audience. (Excel participants cannot compete in any Omega categories). Contact your local Discipleship Ministries director for more information. The National Fine Arts Festival and Youth Quest will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 18-21, 2011.

The Appalachian Conference will see a change in location for the conference Fine Arts Festival in 2011. Tree of Life Ministries in Lynchburg, Virginia, will host the conference Fine Arts Festival on Saturday, April 16. The change of venue will allow for professional sound systems and lighting on three stages, as well as the ability to video each participant. The videos will be made available through the conference Discipleship Ministries Department and via the department's website. Lunch that day will be available on site for purchase through three vendors: Domino's Pizza, Subway and Chick-fil-A. Guidelines and registration forms are available through the conference office and the department's website. For more information contact the conference DM director.

A Psalm for Thanksgiving

PSALM 100

- 1 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- 4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
- 5 For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

As we come to this Thanksgiving season, it is easy to get caught up in our problems, our discouragements, our disappointments. We could choose to focus on the negative condition of the world in which we live or the frailty of life in general, or we can look beyond the moment, catch a glimpse of God's glory and rejoice in the promise of His Word!

For it truly is He who made us; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. His mercy and truth will endure and be extended not only to us but to our children and generations to come.

So rise above! Make a declaration of faith to the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Let us be reminded that He does not leave us nor forsake us and that He is with us now and always.

From our table to yours, we speak blessings and abundance. May your heart and home be filled with joy as He inhabits your praise!

BIBLE QUEST 2011

Look for information in the December issue of the *Messenger!*





Women's Ministries

KATHY MATHENA



Move Forward

Written by Odessa Shupe, WM Board Member



For the past several weeks, the phrase “move forward” has been brought to my attention daily as if the words were in neon lights. I’m sure you have had like experiences. After research, I found some interesting information I would like to share.

The phrase is defined to *develop in a positive way*. “Move forward” is an action verb, so if we are to perform this action, then it will take a deliberate decision or action on our part.

What does moving forward involve? Peter came to mind as he made a deliberate decision to walk on the water toward Jesus in Matthew 14. To take that first step required courage and extreme faith. Peter had his eye on the goal and knew exactly where he was headed; all he had to do was make the first move. As Jesus “bids us come,” there will always be an opportunity to advance in the kingdom of God which may require radical faith as Peter or just being consistent and steadfast on a daily basis. But either way, we will move forward.

Jesus petitioned his disciples to “follow me,” and, with no hesitation, they immediately walked away from their livelihood and family to follow the Son of God. The disciples did not take time to reason or question the opportunity before them, only the presence of the Master and two words—*follow me*—and they did. Can we be so willing when the Master speaks change to us that we quickly respond? Andrew and Peter did not fret over their future outcome, but instead, laid down their nets and followed him. James and John did not take time for a family discussion with their father Zebedee; they, too, laid down their nets and followed. Matthew did not consider what other tax collectors might think of him; he simply arose from his table and followed Jesus.

“Advance” as a noun is defined as *the act of moving forward*. As Christians grow and mature, we all desire

to advance in our walk with the Lord. The thing is, you can’t advance and stay where you are at the same time. In order to move forward, we must let go of where we are and take a step forward just as Peter and the disciples did. That may be literally leaving your location as the Lord leads you and moving forward to the next level he has for you in ministry, or advancement may come as personal growth as we obey the Lord each day.

Prepare yourself for change because moving forward will not leave you in the same setting. Change will come, and change is good. Sometimes, we are aware of change, and sometimes, just like the disciples, change might walk up to you unexpectedly and say, “Follow me.” One thing for sure, we cannot hold on to the past with one hand and grasp what is before us with the other, or we will become torn between two choices.

Philippians 3 gives us clear understanding as Paul explains the runner who presses forward to the goal set before him. Paul stresses the runner must forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead. A runner never turns and looks back, nor does he slow down just short of the end. He paces himself with consistent speed until the finish line is in sight, and then picks up speed with all his strength to cross the finish line. I am sure we can all feel the urgency as the end-time approaches. It is imperative that we move forward without delay with our eyes on the goal.

With pride and honor, the Appalachian Conference has just celebrated 100 years of our past, but according to Paul, we can’t stay there. As a conference and all the ministries under that umbrella, we must be reaching forward to grasp what God has set before us and graciously let go of what lies behind. I am proud of our past, but at the same time, excited to see what lies ahead of us as we move forward in the coming years.





World Intercession Network

DONNA HANKLA



SPIRITUAL CPR

Many Christians need to be revived! Maybe they have been through trials. Maybe they have grown weary. Maybe they have lost their passion, or have become too busy. Whatever the reason, a fresh breath from the Holy Spirit is needed.

If Christians are not up to par, how can they shine as a light for the world? The message in 1 Peter 4:8 is, "If the righteous scarcely be saved, what will become of the godless and wicked?" (Amplified)

The ABCs of CPR are: A = open airway; B = give rescue breaths; C = restore circulation.

Three Churches in the Book of Revelation needed reviving:

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS – This church had become too busy. It had moved far away from the Source of Life. "Nevertheless, I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love." This church had performed many good works, yet became too busy to spend time nurturing its first love." (Revelation 2:1-4)

We must keep the main thing as the main thing. When we are too busy to pray, read the Bible or worship God, we are departing from the source of life!

THE CHURCH OF SARDIS – Apparently, this church neglected to watch and pray. "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found your works perfect before God." (Revelation 3:1-6)

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA – This church had lost passion for the Son of God. They spent their time increasing in wealth. Jesus had something to tell them. "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot... I will spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:16)

It's time for Spiritual CPR. Pray for a fresh encounter with God's spirit!

NEWS FOR 2011

- WIN is looking forward to 2011. Your participation and support are welcome.
- WIN will encourage each church to establish a prayer coordinator and have consistent times of prayer.
- WIN will place a great emphasis on prayer for the missionaries.
- WIN will prepare a prayer room for the conference, beginning in January 2011. This will allow us to hold special prayer events and to encourage individual prayer times.
- The 24-Hour Prayer Watch with Capitol Hill Partners will continue every Friday from 6:00 p.m. to Saturday at 6:00 p.m. (Call the conference to schedule your prayer time. Prayer is held in the home).
- Spring Prayer Festival is being planned for May 2011.
- WIN will provide teaching sessions about "Hearing from God."

Read the *Messenger* for current prayer events.



Men's Ministries

RICK BLACK



Scattered Feathers

A king once held a great banquet for all his knights who had returned from war. The day before the feast, the chief knight fell from his horse and was seriously hurt. The king was surprised on the night of the banquet to find all the men happy and energized. He had thought the knight's accident would make them sad. When he asked why they were so happy, he found the men disliked the knight. He was always criticizing someone; he never said a kind word.

When the knight recovered, the king asked him to find a bag of feathers and go for a horseback ride with him. Although the knight thought it was a strange request, he did as he was commanded. When they came to a crossroads, the king told him to empty the bag. They returned home. The next day the king asked the knight to bring the empty bag and ride out again.

Can you imagine the knight's surprise when, as they arrived at the same crossroads, the king asked him to gather the feathers? We know that was an impossible task.

Words are like those scattered feathers. What about angry words or hasty words we speak that wound our family members or our friends? We do not think before we speak, but once spoken, the words can never be "put back in the bag." If our words are always words of impatience or anger, others will see what we are really like on the inside.

God states in His Word, "No lies about your neighbor" (Ex. 20:7, Message); "No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of his name" (Ex. 20:16, Message); and "Careful words make for a careful life; careless talk may ruin everything" (Prov. 13:3, Message). These are only a few scriptures that deal with this subject.

We know we cannot rid our lives of angry or unkind words by ourselves. It is very easy to speak without thinking. With God's help we can practice saying only good things about others; in time our speech will change, and others will notice.

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