



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

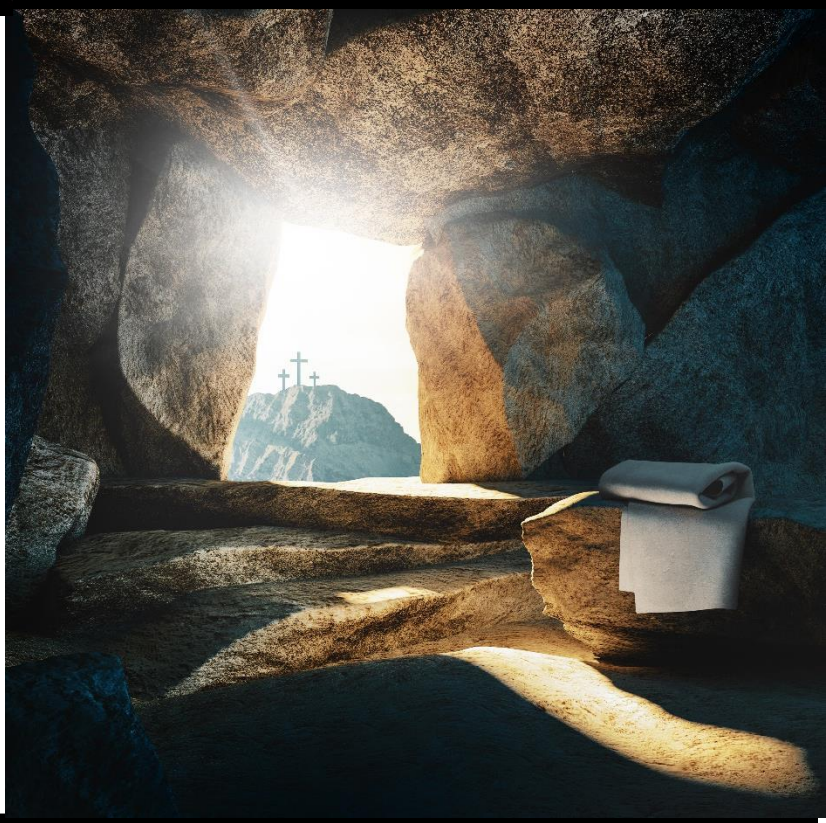
# MESSENGER

Vol. 83, No. 4 April 2022



It  
is  
finished!

**HE'S  
ALIVE!**



## MAY RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

### May 16

Rev. Gary Cope  
830 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wytheville, VA 24382

### May 31

Dr. C.R. Conner  
1144 Windsor Avenue  
Pulaski, VA 24301



**He is not here.  
He is risen!**

## DEATH OF MRS. CAROLYN INGLE COPE



Carolyn Cope, 70, spouse of former D.M. Director and former Executive Council member, Rev. Gary Cope, entered the presence of the Lord on March 27, 2022. She faithfully served alongside her husband in pastoring churches in both Virginia and West Virginia. She was also active in Royal Rangers and Camp Maranatha.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, one son and two daughters and their families. Funeral services will be held April 2, 2022, at Millennium World Outreach Center, Wytheville, VA, with burial following at the Appalachian Conference cemetery, Dublin, VA. All who knew Carolyn were touched by her loving, gentle spirit and her willingness to serve. She will be greatly missed.

## Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 83— April 2022— No. 4

Executive Editor – Preston Mathena

### Staff

Phone (540) 674-4131  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### Evangelism & World Missions Ministries

Larry Meadors  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks  
5847 Oak Grove Avenue  
Dublin, VA 24084

### Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter  
2473 Ivanhoe Road  
Max Meadows, VA 24360  
Phone (276) 620-7549

### WIN

Donna Hankla  
139 Ridgeway Drive  
Bland, VA 24315  
Phone (276) 688-3709

### MEN'S MINISTRIES

Steve Winesett  
3414 Water Plant Road  
Hillsville, VA 24343  
Phone (336) 408-2008

### Conference Board

Superintendent – Preston Mathena  
Asst. Superintendent – Mike Dodson  
Secretary/Treasurer – Frank Neff  
Board Member – Stacy Cope  
Board Member – Larry Meadors  
Board Member – Wanda Myers  
Board Member – Jim Tunnell

### Deadline for all script to reach the office:

First of each month for the next month's issue  
Email to Sandy Wood at [woodsh12@gmail.com](mailto:woodsh12@gmail.com)

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





# The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena

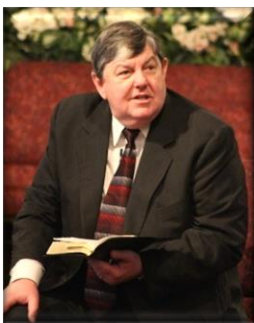


## COMING SOON! CAMP MEETING 2022



**Manny Arango** is a preacher, Bible nerd, and storyteller. He's passionate about fighting for people who have lost their voice and their way. For the past two years, Manny has served as a Teaching Pastor at World Overcomers Christian Church, a multi-cultural megachurch in Durham, NC. Previously, he served as the Youth Pastor at World Overcomers (from 2014-2019).

**Dr. Jay Pike** serves as executive teaching pastor of The Gate Church, Dean of KingsGate College, and lead academic director for Southeastern University. The Gate Church is a multicultural community of Spirit-filled Christ followers in Oklahoma City. Jay and his wife, Sissi, also serve as regional directors of Destiny Fellowship, an international network of churches and ministries.



**Dr. Doug Small** is a Bible teacher, prayer leader and an Ordained Bishop and International Director of Prayer Ministries with the Church of God. He is the founding president of Alive Ministries: PROJECT PRAY, teaching and training through schools of prayer and consultations for congregations and cities, working with pastors, vocational Christians and intercessors. He is chair of the PCCNA Prayer Commission and a member of the Executive Leadership team of the Denominational Prayer Leaders Network. He has served as a pastor and on the faculty of a number of accredited Bible Colleges.

**Melanie Wayne** is the worship and administrative pastor at Christian Life International in Salem, VA. She is an anointed and inspiring worship leader.



# 11 Leadership Mistakes to Avoid at all Cost

## (with preventative measures)

\*Article by Dan Reiland

If you're a leader, you make mistakes. I've made plenty. In fact, it's impossible to lead without making mistakes because you are moving into new and often unknown territory. The important thing is not to repeat your mistakes. If you do, that indicates you're not learning as you lead.

So let me say it again this way. Make mistakes, learn from them and get better as a leader; just don't make the same mistake twice. With that said, here's a mistake I've made.

*I've failed to learn from others' mistakes.*

As a leadership coach and having made plenty of mistakes of my own, I've encountered a wide variety of ministry leadership mistakes. *This is your opportunity to hopefully avoid some or most of them.* As I wrote this post, many possibilities came to mind, so my goal was to curate a list of the more dangerous ones.

### 11 leadership mistakes you *really* want to avoid:

#### 1) Drift from your calling

Slow drift from your calling is common. It's not intentional, but busyness, pressure, sustained stress, fatigue, discouragement, and spiritually dry seasons can dampen your calling and cause you to drift from it.

Remember the clarity and passion of your calling; it's the spiritual fuel that keeps you going through the seasons when leadership is difficult. It's God's kind voice reminding you that He's with you.

What are a few specific things that help you keep your calling fresh? For example, when I'm in a worship service with baptisms, coaching a young leader who discovers their gifting and calling, or seeing a church break through a barrier... my heart says, *"Oh yeah, this is why!"*

How about you? What keeps your calling fresh?

#### 2) Confuse activity with productivity

One of the early leadership principles John Maxwell taught me was that activity is not the same as productivity.

In ministry, that is ever so true. In fact, you can exhaust yourself doing ministry with minimal results. Ministry is highly relational, and that's a good thing. Personally, I wouldn't want it any other way, but it must also be purposeful. Jesus' mission is very specific.

Be very purposeful in your meetings and with the mechanics of ministry. Remain focused on your mission to maximize your productivity and minimize wasted activity.

#### 3) Surrender the mission to the pressure of the machine

It's far too often that the machine of ministry hijacks the mission of ministry. Fight to keep the machine serving the mission.

This is never intentional, but the larger the church gets, the easier it is to become event planners with theological degrees.

We are organizers and equippers of Christian community, and that's a good thing, but we can lose touch with that community if we don't personally stay engaged with the mission.

Regularly ask your teams, "Are the mechanics of our ministry serving our mission?" If not, make changes immediately.

#### **4) Add prayer to the end of your energy**

When I'm out of my normal daily rhythms, for example, when I travel, it's easy for me to grab time for prayer whenever I can rather than a time when I'm fully engaged and focused.

Praying at any time during the day is good, but if your mind is distracted with problems to solve and tensions to manage, you may not be able to fully connect with Jesus. So give Jesus some of your best focus and energy.

#### **5) Fail to tend to personal soul care**

About fifteen years ago, sustained stress and overt pressure gave way to a season of anxiety that lasted about three months. From that experience, I learned three important things:

- How to recognize the symptoms of sustained stress and pressure, and what to do.
- That I have limits and to exceed them is foolish.
- How to let God carry what I can't carry.

These are simple lessons to read about but tough to learn in the crucible of anxiety. Nevertheless, God was kind, and that period was relatively brief.

#### **3 questions for you and your personal soul care:**

1. Do you know your early warning signs of too much-sustained stress and pressure and what to do?
2. Do you know your limits and create healthy boundaries?
3. Do you let God carry what you can't carry?

#### **6) Allow vision and strategy to become disconnected**

When visionaries cast vision in the big room and the strategists meet separately to figure out how to do it, the outcome is never ideal. Visionaries and strategists must regularly sit at the same table to keep the dream robust and alive and simultaneously be honest about the strategic realities.

The best way to minimize frustration and maximize outcomes is to keep communication fluid and open with the visionaries who dream the vision and the strategists who help make it happen.

#### **7) Want more from people than for them**

Desperation in leadership can cause you to flip the biblical script from serving to surviving. In forty years of ministry, I've never seen a time with more pressure and temptation in the lives of leaders to, unintentionally, want more from people than they want for them.

Do everything you can to remain the real you, express your true heart and calling, and *want more for people than from them*.

#### **8) Lose your joy for the sake of progress**

If you are like most leaders I know, you are working harder than ever but not seeing the same results you once did. I'm so glad that you remain focused on the vision and committed to moving forward. But if you will allow me to be your pastor or coach for a minute, *please don't sacrifice your joy*.

Progress is great, but productivity without joy is drudgery, and you won't go the distance that way. So take the time you need to sense genuine inner joy in your work.

- What are some of life's little things that bring you joy? Take time for them.
- Who are a few of your friends that bring you joy? Don't go too long without some time together.

## 9) Use spiritual authority to resist change

We've always known that change is constant, and now more than ever, we can literally *feel* the speed of change.

As a leader, you get to choose when and how you lead change, but leading change is not optional if you want to see your vision become a reality.

There are times when you have no margin for change, you just don't like the change, or perhaps, you're not quite ready for it. Be honest about that.

Don't use the God card or your spiritual authority to passively resist change or say no. Just own it. Those who follow you may not like it at the moment, but they will continue to trust you. Your job then is to prepare yourself for the changes that need to happen.

## 10) Please people over pleasing God

Every leader I know has *at least* been tempted to please people with the risk of doing so over pleasing God. It comes from a good place, a love for people, and a desire to serve, often resulting in unintended consequences.

It's fun to make people happy, and that's not a bad thing, but our job is not to make people happy; it's to make them better – in Christ.

*It's when insecurities or impure motives kick in that pleasing people turns into people-pleasing.*

Serve people well but keep God first.

- Stay connected to the vine.
- Listen for God's voice.
- Live like you love God.

## 11) Abdicate integrity and therefore violate trust

My heart aches, as I'm sure yours does, too, at the number of leaders who violate their integrity.

However, I'm not referring to celebrity leaders. They are a small number who get big press. It's those of us who are "everyday leaders." And it's rarely about a big scandal of some kind.

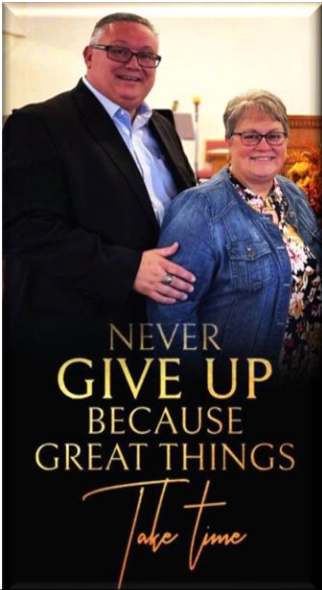
It's more about everyday things like:

- Do we do what we say we'll do?
- Are we honest?
- Are we trustworthy?
- Are we authentic?
- Is our private life the same as our public life?

That's the irony of integrity. It's often what is not seen... until it is. Then people are disappointed, hurt, or disillusioned. Live your life as if it's all seen.

None of us can live up to the scrutiny of perfection, and it's extra tough these days when you can be "canceled" for saying, doing (or not doing) anything. But that doesn't let us off the hook to live the best God-honoring life we can.

# Catch the Fire of *Giving*



Pastors Paul and Sally Chapman

How does a “small,” by comparison, congregation move from a non-missions minded church to an overflowing blessed-to-give minded church?

Catch a Spark. Are you familiar with the old youth group song, “*It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around will warm up to its glowing*”? It only takes one spark for you to get the fire started. Once you’ve experienced what giving can do to you, to your church, you will want to pass it on.

Beckley Praise Church has caught the spark. We started small, by having missionaries visit our church and not only share who they were and where they were serving, but we allowed them to worship with us and to present the Word of God to us. Then we prayed and asked God to direct us in supporting missionaries monthly. After hearing about Coffee House Ministry and having an opportunity to visit one in Budapest, we were impressed to also begin supporting that ministry monthly. It is amazing how providing a cup of coffee can open the doors to sharing the Gospel of Christ to some who might not ever have heard it otherwise.

Did we have the “extra funds” to do this? No, but we believe Matthew 28, the “Great Commission” is a command for each of us, individually and as a church. So, we committed in faith, and we have never failed to make the commitments nor meet the needs of the church.

And the spark became a roaring fire when a few were privileged to visit Nairobi, Kenya, for the first time in 2017 where we saw firsthand the great impact fresh, clean water has on the people. People who were not only thirsty for good clean water, but thirsty to hear about Jesus who could provide a well of water, the water of life received within that they would never thirst again. You see, water really does equal life.

We saw how a well not only provided clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, but how it also enabled a harvest. It brought a multiplying of food and animals, of gardens and income. And with this also came a multiplying in the churches and schools, as there is also a harvest of souls for the Kingdom.

Not all can go and see firsthand, but the ones that could go returned with the attitude of the two who were sent to spy out the Land of Canaan; they returned saying, “We can do this.” Then our church caught the spark, and seeing the great impact a well can have, we began to focus on working with Ron and Sharon Wooten and Mike and Tammy McRae, Water for Nations, to provide wells for the people in Nairobi, Kenya. Over the last four years our spark has ignited the flame of others and brought this need to the attention of friends and family members who have partnered with us and enabled us to provide two wells. This year, we will complete an additional two wells. These projects alone have totaled \$76,000 in giving over the past four years.

When you look at the number, the work we’ve been blessed to have accomplished doesn’t seem possible. But that’s God making the impossible, possible. Little IS much when God is in it.

The Apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 8:1-4 KJV**, “*Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; how that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*”

We encourage you to step out in faith, support, send and pray.

Pastors Paul and Sally Chapman  
Beckley Praise Church





## Great Commission Meals

This year's world missions meals were truly great! I am so thankful for the 65 churches that came and heard from our missionaries and the great things that God is doing around the world.

### 2021 Conference Mission Giving Totals

	2021	2020
Missionary Support	\$358,591	+\$45,683
Global Outreach	\$196,807	+\$29,853
Projects & Ministries	\$315,054	+\$94,683
People to People	\$58,086	-\$3,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$928,539</b>	<b>+\$166,959</b>

*\*The amounts shown for 2020 reflect either the increase or difference in the amount given in 2021.*

Praise the Lord for the increase!

Find out the latest update from our missionaries and learn about the special project for this year at the conference website, under Media. <https://appconf.org/media>

### TOP 5 OVERALL MISSIONS GIVING CHURCHES

**New Life Christian Ministries - \$77,892**

**Harbor of Hope - \$48,843**

**Christian Life International - \$42,757**

**Voice of Praise - \$35,636**

**Buena Vista - \$35,599**



# 2021 Missions Report

## FIVE STAR AWARDS



### **BLUEFIELD/MCDOWELL DISTRICT**

Destiny Outreach  
Point of Contact Ministries

### **ROANOKE VALLEY/CENTRAL VA DISTRICT**

Cool Spring  
Faith Central Fellowship

### **SHENANDOAH VALLEY DISTRICT**

Freedom Center-Lexington  
Irish Creek  
Life Line Ministries-Mitchelltown  
Natural Bridge Fellowship  
New Hope-Stanley

### **GREENBRIER DISTRICT**

Caldwell  
Organ Cave-Bethel  
Tygart Valley Ministries

### **NEW RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT**

Abundant Life Fellowship  
Cornerstone-Narrows  
Harbor of Hope

### **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT**

Austinville  
Draper Valley  
Galax  
Little Vine Community-Sylvatus  
Max Meadows

# SEVEN STAR AWARDS



## **EAST TENNESSEE DISTRICT**

Ashway

## **BLUEFIELD/MCDOWELL DISTRICT**

Boissevain

Leckie

New Vision-Green Valley

Premier

Voice of Praise-Bluewell

## **ROANOKE VALLEY/CENTRAL VA DISTRICT**

Amazing Grace Ministries

## **SHENANDOAH VALLEY DISTRICT**

Lexington

New Hope Outreach

Shenandoah

Word of Life-Winchester

## **GREENBRIER DISTRICT**

Lewisburg Community

White Sulphur Springs

## **CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT**

Beckley Praise

Cales Chapel-Coal City

Garten

Mossy Living Word

Shady Spring

Trinity Fellowship-St. Albans

## **NEW RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT**

Ellett Valley

Faith Temple-Pearisburg

French's Chapel

Piedmont

Valley Christian Ministries

## **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT**

Speedwell

St. Paul

# Global Outreach Offering Awards

## GO Level Award

Cool Spring - \$4,202  
Faith Central Fellowship - \$2,500  
Garten - \$3,037  
Lexington - \$3,200  
Premier - \$2,629  
Ray of Hope-Harrisonburg - \$4,183  
Speedwell - \$4,000  
Tygart Valley Ministries - \$2,505  
Voice of Praise-Bluewell - \$4,600  
Word of Life-Winchester - \$4,601

## GIVE Level Award

Amazing Grace Ministries-Lynchburg - \$7,200  
Ashway - \$5,200  
Beckley Praise - \$5,683  
Buena Vista - \$5,495  
Cales Chapel-Coal City - \$5,000  
Calvary Full Gospel - \$5,000  
Leckie - \$5,600  
New Life Christian Ministries - \$6,500

## GROW Level Award

New Hope-Stanley - \$8,036  
Pine Mountain - \$7,900

## ENGAGE Level Award

New Hope Outreach-Harrisonburg - \$10,795

## MISSION ONE

Harbor of Hope-Christiansburg - \$20,000



It was an honor to have the Executive Director of World Missions, Bishop Talmadge Gardner, sharing in the Great Commission meals.





# Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



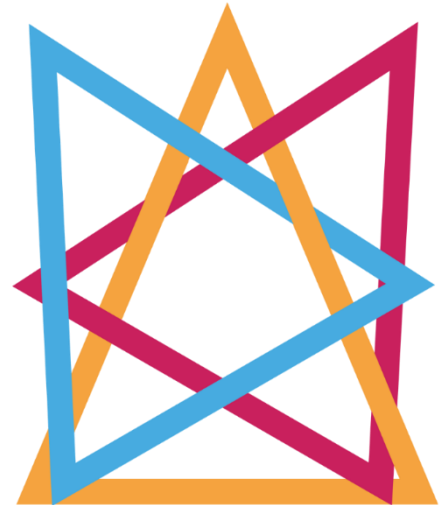
## Fine Arts 2022

Saturday, April 23, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Appalachian Conference

**WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME  
FINE ARTS BACK!!**



IPHC FINE ARTS

Spectators welcome!

Come, bring your youth!

Let them listen and watch. Join us this year as young people from across the conference come and share their ministry in preaching, writing, singing, instrumentals, drama, dance, art and graphics.



There will also be a special BIBLE QUIZ presentation!

**Stand Firm: 2021-2022 Boys' & Girls' Ministries Theme**



For more information:

<https://iphc.org/discipleship/stand-firm-2021-2022-boys-girls-ministries-theme/>



# MAY 14 KIDS FIELD DAY

Come join us for a day filled with underground adventure. Learn how God creates an awesome place for us to explore 34 stories below ground. This is for children ages 5-12. Cost \$20, includes caverns admission, gem mine, craft, lunch and more. There is also a gift shop.

\*Tour is not recommended if you are unable to perform physically demanding walking or climbing up and down numerous stairs in a dimly lit, cool, wet environment. Please wear non-slip, closed-toed shoes and bring a light jacket, as underground temp is 52.

## Hosted by Boys' and Girls' Ministries:

For more info, call Freddie Sweet Jr. @ 276-233-8983 (please leave message if no answer) or email [applaconfbmrr@outlook.com](mailto:applaconfbmrr@outlook.com) or Elaine Wood @540-357-5614 or email [girlz4jc@gmail.com](mailto:girlz4jc@gmail.com)

LUNCH AT NATURAL BRIDGE  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
21 GILMORES MILL RD.  
NATURAL BRIDGE STATION, VA 24579

OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS  
TO CONSIDER EXPLORING  
(ON YOUR OWN)

---

NATURAL BRIDGE  
STATE PARK

DINOSAUR KINGDOM II

---

VIRGINIA GOLD ORCHARD

NATURAL BRIDGE ZOO

---

VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER

VIRGINIA SAFARI PARK

Caverns at Natural Bridge  
6313 S Lee Hwy  
Natural Bridge, VA

May 14, 2022, 10am

Please be there about  
20 minutes earlier

**WE'RE COMING BACK....A GREAT YEAR AWAITS!!**



**Workers Needed! Download and mail worker's application today!**

[https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-CAMP\\_WORKER-APPLICATION-FINAL.pdf](https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-CAMP_WORKER-APPLICATION-FINAL.pdf)

**Download CAMPER APPLICATION @**

<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/YC-APP-2022-FINAL.pdf>

**RECEIVE \$10 DISCOUNT IF REGISTERED BEFORE May 6, 2022**



**Extreme Teen**  
**Josh Lafferty**



**Destiny**  
**Tim Bennett**



**Adventure Quest**  
**Kristie Cain**



# CAMP MARANATHA

20  
22

DUBLIN VA

**JUNE**  
**20-24**  
**\$189**

Extreme Teen | 14 - 17 yrs  
Camp Pastor: Josh Lafferty  
Worship leader: Emmanuel College

**JUNE 27**  
**JULY 1**  
**\$189**

Destiny - 11-13 yrs  
Camp Pastor: Tim Bennett  
Worship Leader: Abigail Eversole

**JULY**  
**5-8**  
**\$179**

Adventure Quest - 7 - 10 yrs  
Camp Pastor: Kristie Cain  
Worship Leader: CLI Team

**YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME  
WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH  
ALL YOUR HEART  
JER 29:13**

**PASSIONATELY PURSUING CHRIST**

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES  
5847 OAK GROVE AVENUE  
DUBLIN, VA 24084

**CONTACT NUMBER**  
540-674-4131 EXT. 201

**EMAIL**  
DMSECRETARY1@AOL.COM

**FOR  
REGISTRATION  
FORM GO TO  
APPCONF.ORG**

**EARLY REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE: MAY 6** **\$10  
DISCOUNT**





GIRLZ MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2022

# AWAKEN

AUGUST

5-7<sup>TH</sup>  
\$70

EACH CHILD/LEADER

AGES 10-17



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LIZ  
DICKSON



WORSHIP WITH

MANISHA CARVER  
& WORSHIP TEAM

• APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS •

5847 OAK GROVE PL, DUBLIN, VA 24084

RETREAT WILL HELP BLESS VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE IPHC DENOMINATION  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 540.674.4131 OR 540.357.5614



# Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



## THE 21ST MASTER'S SEEDTIME GOLF CLASSIC BLUE RIDGE GOLF CLUB - GALAX, VA

MAY 20, 2022

SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S MINISTRIES OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE

### All Participants will enjoy:

- 🏌️ 18 holes of golf  
(Shotgun start at 9:30 AM)
- 🏌️ Green fees and riding carts
- 🏌️ Snacks and Drinks provided
- 🏌️ Lunch and Awards at the Close of Tournament

### The following prizes will be awarded:

- 🏆 Trophy for each 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place players.
- 🏌️ Longest drive on a designated hole.
- 🏌️ Prize for closest to hole on all par 3 holes.
- 🏌️ Putt-off contest winner.

**Fee includes:**  
1 Mulligan  
1 Red Tee  
1 Free-Throw per player

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$70 per person or SPONSOR a TEAM for \$280.00**

For questions and inquiries, you may contact:

Steve Winesett, Men's Ministries Director

336-408-2008 or [men.appconf@gmail.com](mailto:men.appconf@gmail.com)

Appalachian Conference IPHC Office 540-674-4131

**HELP KIDS GO TO  
CAMP!  
SPONSOR A HOLE!**

**SPONSOR a HOLE for \$100.00**

Contact Ron Fredericks, 276-233-4742

[Rfredericks58@aol.com](mailto:Rfredericks58@aol.com)

DM Department, 540-674-4131, ext. 201

Email: [dmsecretary1@aol.com](mailto:dmsecretary1@aol.com)



# Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



## “Worth it After All”

*"Not my will but your will be done."* Familiar words from Jesus in the garden just before He went to the cross. He knew that if He didn't follow His Heavenly Father that He would not fulfill the purpose He came to earth for. At that moment, He didn't want to drink the cup. That's what He said. *"Take this cup from me."* This was Jesus! The Son of God!

So often we think of Jesus as never having struggles or human thoughts. These scriptures tell us just the opposite! His natural man did struggle with the spiritual man. His human side was not wanting to go to the cross or be the sacrifice the world so desperately needed.

During these human moments, Jesus put Himself aside and focused on the will of His Heavenly Father. He knew the path He had to take would not be easy. He knew the road would be long. Although He didn't want to take this route, His love for you and me was deeper than His human desire to avoid the task at hand, and that made His purpose worth it all. I believe that gave Jesus the peace He needed to press on. It was God's will and His will is always perfect.

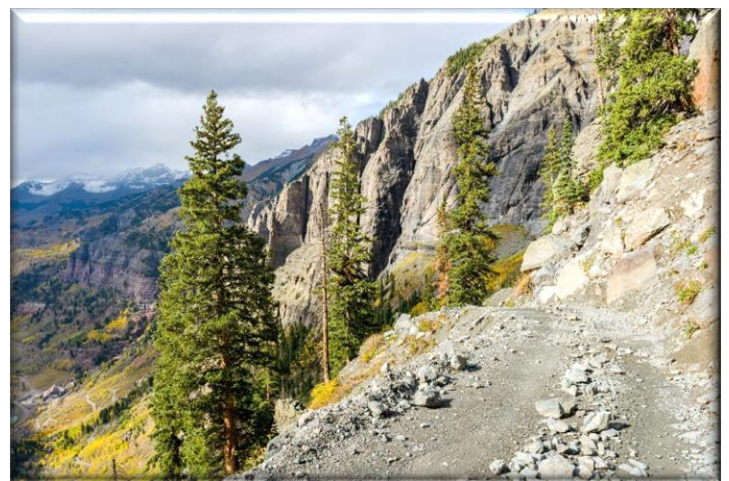
My question to you is this...

Do you really want His will for your life?

Do you really want the very best He has to offer to you?

Do you really want to fulfill your purpose for being here on earth?

Well, there is a road to walk. It's not always easy. It's not always paved. Sometimes it is bumpy. Sometimes it is rough. Sometimes it is dusty.



But at the end of that road there is fullness of joy, blessing and peace. It will be worth it after all.

**Keep walking!**





## PAY ATTENTION

You have probably heard these words from a teacher. Teachers want you to FOCUS on the subject being taught. They do not want you to be distracted and miss the message.

The greatest teacher of all time, spoke similar words to his disciples regarding the times of the end. His name is Jesus, the Son of God, who died and rose again, so we could have salvation.

*"Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).*

Distractions from the main prophetic events occurring right before our eyes have caused many to overlook the Jews returning to their homeland. Scenes of the war in Ukraine, and rising gas prices, and fights over Covid protection measures, have blinded people to this sign.

### SINCE 1948

What a miracle, that Israel became a nation after nearly 2000 years! At one minute past midnight, on May 15, 1948, the state of Israel became a nation.

*"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land" (Ezekiel 36:24).*

Other references can be found in Jeremiah 29:14 and Jeremiah 30:1 -38.

### IT IS HAPPENING AGAIN!

Jews are returning to the nation of Israel because of the war!

### THE HOLOCAUST

The horrors of the Holocaust caused many Jews to flee to Israel, and thus a nation was born in a day. (Isaiah 66:8) The Nazis killed an estimated 17 million people including Jews, Russians, Poles, Roma, gay people, and people with disabilities. The Nazis killed 6 million Jews! Those who did not flee the country suffered great atrocities.

All of Ukraine's 44 million people are facing the threat of Russian invasion. Within 12 days, more than 2 million Ukrainians became refugees!



## **ISRAEL INVITES**

The nation of Israel has stepped up to fulfill prophecy! When the Ukrainian Jews arrive in Israel, they are given shelter, food, and protection! A single Ukrainian Jew is given \$1,850 to come to Israel. A couple is given \$3,400, and a family is given \$4,600.

There are about 200,000 Jews in Ukraine. It is estimated that about 100,000 or more will relocate to the nation of Israel!

## **SEE THINGS THROUGH GOD'S EYES**

If you want to have an accurate prophetic picture of life, you must view time and nations as God does! The nation of Israel is the center of God's attention. It is time for us to look at this nation! It is time to WATCH & PRAY!

*"...for he that touches you (nation of Israel) touches the apple of his eye" (Zechariah 2:8).*

## **STUDY QUESTION**

What did the disciples ask Jesus in Matthew 24:3? \_\_\_\_\_



# APRIL CALENDAR

- 2** Spring Prayer Festival
  - 4-7** Encore Ministries Spring Trip
  - 9** Pinewood Derby
  - 15** Good Friday – Office Closed
  - 17** Easter
  - 23** Fine Arts Festival – Campground
  - 25** Call to Prayer 8 pm
- - - - -