



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

# MESSENGER

Vol. 83, No. 1 January 2022

## Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - Jan. 23



"...you knit me together in my mother's womb."

Psalm 139:13

**Appalachian Conference**

INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

# February Retired Ministers' Birthdays

## February 10

Rev. Ronald Burke  
205 Wades lane  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

## February 18

Rev. Arthur Collins  
117 Austin Lane  
Fall Branch, TN 37656

## February 11

Rev. Tony Brescia  
52 Underwood Lane  
Forest, VA 24551

## February 18

Rev. Bunnie Watkins  
5810 Airport Road  
Bluefield, WV 24701

## Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 83— January 2022— No. 1

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)



## Rev. R.C. Turner Gains Heaven

On December 26, 2021, Rev. Russell Clarence Turner, 95, of Bluefield, WV, went to heaven. He was ordained with the Appalachian Conference in 1964 and pastored a number of churches in the conference before retiring in 2002. Left to cherish

his memory are his wife Melieve, three children and their families.

A memorial service was held on January 2 at Southview Church, with interment at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Princeton, WV. In over 50 years of ministry, Rev. Turner influenced many, many lives for the Savior he knew and loved.



# The Bishop's Page

Preston Mathena



## Tower of Refuge Church Love Vision

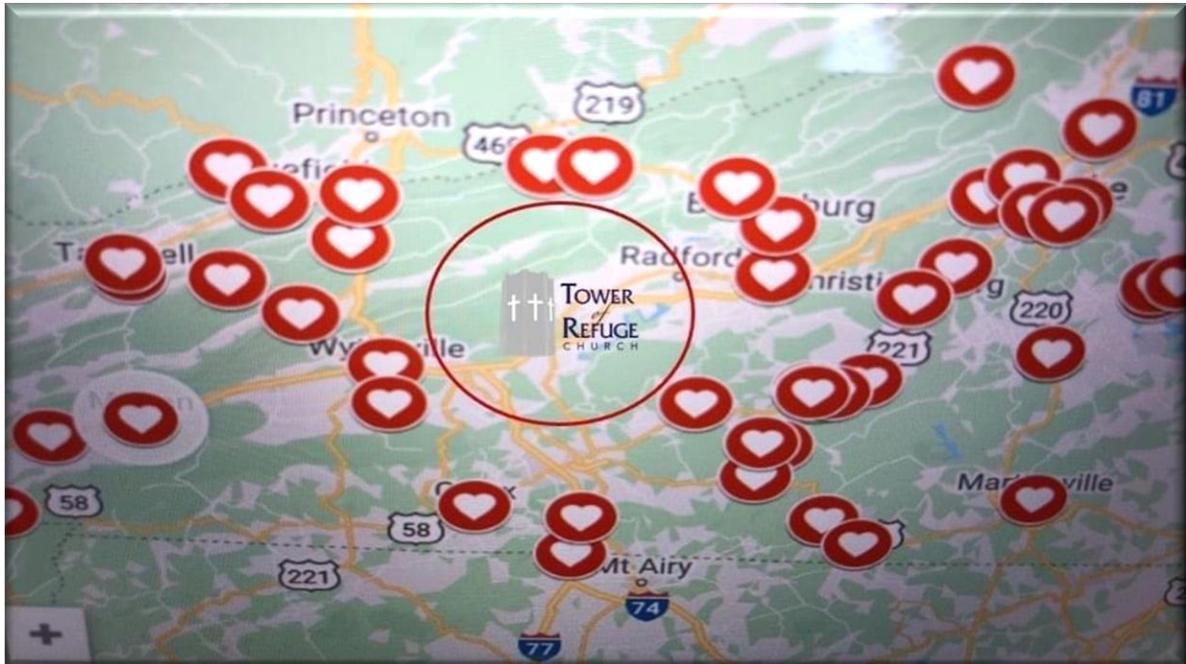
Back in the summer of 2020, Big Walker Lookout had me, as their local author, do a book signing for my first book, "Untold Testimonies Told." As I was signing each person's book, I couldn't help but notice so many people throughout the day going up to the LOVEwork sign there and taking photos with it. LOVEwork signs are the signs spread out all across the state of Virginia for their slogan "Virginia is for Lovers." The signs have to be LIFESIZE to qualify. You can go to <https://www.virginia.org/love/> to read more about the signs.

Two months later, in the fall, Big Walker Lookout had me to come back again for another book signing. Once again, I saw so many people going up and having their picture taken with the LOVEwork sign. I thought to myself, and said to God, "If Virginia is for lovers and Virginia has these signs up all across the state, shouldn't our churches who preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus, who truly is LOVE, have these signs built at our churches?" I felt in my spirit that He said, "Why don't you then?" So I took it to the Lord in prayer and researched all I could about the LOVEwork signs, and one thing I found in my research was this: LOVEworks has a map where you can see where all the LOVE SIGNS are. However, there was a GAP where there was NO LOVE at all. The GAP was between Wytheville, VA, and Christiansburg, VA. There was NO LOVE between. How my heart beat within my chest and I thought, this wouldn't do. I had to be the bridge to fill the GAP of the missing LOVE between these two cities. So in the spring of 2021, the Sunday after Easter, I shared with the people of T.O.R.C. my LOVE VISION. I wanted to share it on that Sunday due to the visitors we had on Easter Sunday would come back and see the Vision as I shared it. To God be the glory, the people of T.O.R.C. fell in LOVE with the VISION and we started the process of building our 8-foot-tall LOVEwork sign. I spoke with our artist Brent Chitwood that I wanted our LOVE SIGN VISION to go hand in hand with the GREATEST LOVE OF ALL — God's Love, out of John 3:16.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Brent had the idea of building up the anticipation by revealing one letter at a time. Boy, did it ever. For months I had people I knew and people I didn't know contact me asking me when our LOVE sign would be complete. We were able to complete the "E" on the first week of December 2021. So many people have already come by to have their picture taken with the sign. It brings my heart so much JOY to see people having their picture taken with the sign. It has also given me a wonderful chance to share the VISION of the sign, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many days I have the opportunity to take pictures of people visiting the sign. I've been blessed by a non-denominational men's ministry out of Hickory, NC, called "Brother Night." They have purchased many of my books to give to the men throughout their ministry and have also purchased books for me to give to people as I feel led. I've taken that opportunity to give many of my first book, "Untold Testimonies Told" and my second book, "Testimonies Told," to the people visiting our LOVEwork sign. Most people would never expect to receive a free gift while visiting these signs. My prayer is that they will accept the ULTIMATE Free Gift of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. May God speak through His Word from John 3:16 and through our LOVE VISION SIGN here in Dublin, VA.



If you would like to have further information about how you or your church could build a sign, or about the books I've written, please feel free to contact me at: [stacy.towerofrefuge@gmail.com](mailto:stacy.towerofrefuge@gmail.com) or go to: [www.testimoniestold.com](http://www.testimoniestold.com)

*"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" ( Isaiah 1:18).*

~Pastor Stacy C. Cope  
Tower of Refuge Church  
Dublin, VA



# World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



## ONE CHURCH

## ONE MISSION

## ONE YEAR

For church planting in 2022... let's work together fulfilling the Great Commission in this new season.

The vision is to plant 5 churches in our Conference region — in the East, West, North and South and at the heart. As God commanded Abraham: *"Arise, walk through the land"* (Genesis 13:17).

The spiritual need is great in America. Our nation needs God. Urgency is the watchword of the day.

*"The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for 1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in any city, and 2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial."* Dr. Timothy Keller

What is in your hand? This regional approach means that what is needed is already there, it just needs to be gathered. Are you willing? Who has the heart of a planter, musician, children's ministry, finances, etc.?

The provision has been made. Finances, training and co-ordination are available on the conference and the EVUSA level. Go to the site [plantachurch.us](http://plantachurch.us) for more information.

### Take the first step of faith:

**Prayer-** who, where, when

**Identify-** planter, ministry leaders

**Train-** connect & coach (Church Planters Intensive is scheduled for March 2-4)

**Scout-** area for location

**Budget-** gather finances

**Timeline-** steps to launch

**Launch-** believe for the harvest

If not now, when? We are responsible for this period of the harvest. We need to live with no regrets.

All pastors and ministers can participate at some level. Key pastors are needed and necessary in each region of our conference to make this impact happen.

God has called us as ONE CHURCH to work together in unity. He has given us ONE MISSION, the Great Commission, to reach the lost. Do we have ONE YEAR to carry this out? Only God knows how much time we have, so let's work while it is day for His kingdom to come.



## One Conference Project with Two Goals

The conference project in 2022 will be to establish and build churches. The goal is to help at home and abroad.

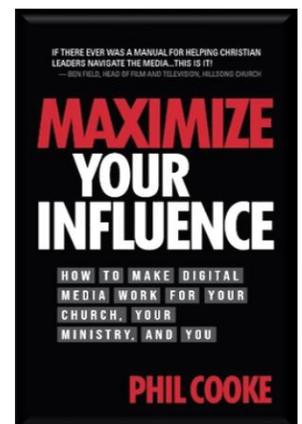
**Conference Church Plants-** This project fund will be exclusively used for our new churches to move into permanent facilities. Use #32-33 Church Planting Contributions. (If you are entering this on Martus, please enter it under "Conference-Specific Purposes.")

**Senegal-** These funds would be to establish the first PH Church in this West African nation under the direction of our WMM missionaries David & Michelle Riley. Use #11417P. It is tentatively planned that a conference team would travel there in the first part of 2023.

## Good Resource

Phil Cooke in his book, Maximize Your Influence, gives a practical guide to every pastor in navigating the digital world. Now more than ever, your ministry needs to have an on-line presence. He offers relevant points to consider and the steps to implementing them.

Phil Cooke works at the intersection of faith, media, and culture, and he's pretty rare – a working producer in Hollywood with a Ph.D. in Theology. His client list includes studios and networks like Walt Disney, Dreamworks, and USA Network, as well as major Christian organizations, from Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, The Museum of the Bible, The Salvation Army, The YouVersion Bible app, and many more. Find out more at philcooke.com



**Great Commission Meals are Coming - March 19 - 25!**

# THE FOUNDRY

## Proverbs 27:17

\*Ministry to you.

\*Training for you.

\*Community with you.

The Foundry is a conference based (Missions & Evangelism) ministry for our pastors and ministers.

You are invited to our first gathering of the year!

January 13, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Appalachian Conference Training Center

Registration is at no cost to you.

Lunch is \$5.00 or you are welcome to bring your own lunch.

Please register on the Appalachian Conference app or website at <https://appconf.org/the-foundry>

email Vanessa Scruggs at [vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com](mailto:vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com) or

call 540-674-4131, ext. 207

### Schedule

Devotion: Bishop Preston Mathena

Training: How to Finish Well – Larry Meadors

Ministry & Community Time

Training: "5 Signs You've Lost Your Leadership Edge and How to Get It Back" – Todd & Tammy Porter, & Wes Galford, – Appalachian Conference Coaches and Larry Meadors

### 2022 Plans

Peer Group Meetings

Personal Leadership Development

Church Revitalization & Breaking Attendance Barriers (HGM Available Tracks)





# Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



## LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19*

**"Our lives are radically changed by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit through Jesus, but that's only the beginning... Discipleship is the next chapter on the journey. Are you ready?" Bishop Tommy McGhee**

***"Unless we can make a difference for those who are trying to make a difference, what difference does it make?" Bishop Tommy McGhee (4/2017)***

**"The pursuit of God is not a part-time, weekend exercise. If it is, chances are you will experience a part-time, weekend freedom. Abiding requires a kind of staying power. The pursuit is relentless. It hungers and thirsts. It pants as the deer after the mountain brook. It takes the kingdom by storm... The pursuit of God is a pursuit of passion. Indifference will not do. To abide in the Word is to hang on tenaciously. A weak grip will soon slip away. Discipleship requires staying power. We sign up for duration. We do not graduate until heaven." R. C. Sproul**

**JOIN US EACH MONTH AS WE LOOK AT SOME COMPONENTS OF DISCIPLESHIP:**

- 1. FOUNDATIONAL**
- 2. TRANSFORMATIONAL**
- 3. EXPERIENTIAL**
- 4. INTENTIONAL**



**WALKING WITH YOU ON THE  
JOURNEY OF BECOMING LIKE JESUS**



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE:**

**Through the Conference Office and the National Office....**



**also, Singles' Ministry, Family Ministry & Senior Ministry**

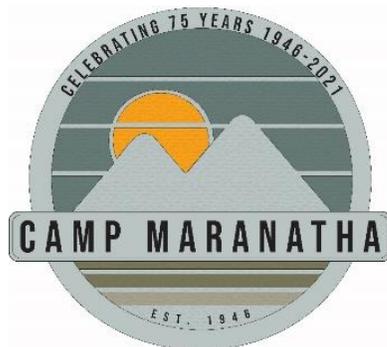


**MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING RESOURCES:**

The Journey is an interactive discipleship resource designed to help people invite Jesus beyond Sundays and into their everyday lives.



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:**



**2 Timothy 2:15 " Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."**

**Psalm 119:11 " Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."**

**COME JOIN US IN 2022 AS WE STUDY  
THE WORD TOGETHER**

# **BIBLE QUIZ**



**TEENS: MATTHEW**

**JUNIOR: MATTHEW 1-14**

**2022 GUIDELINES:**

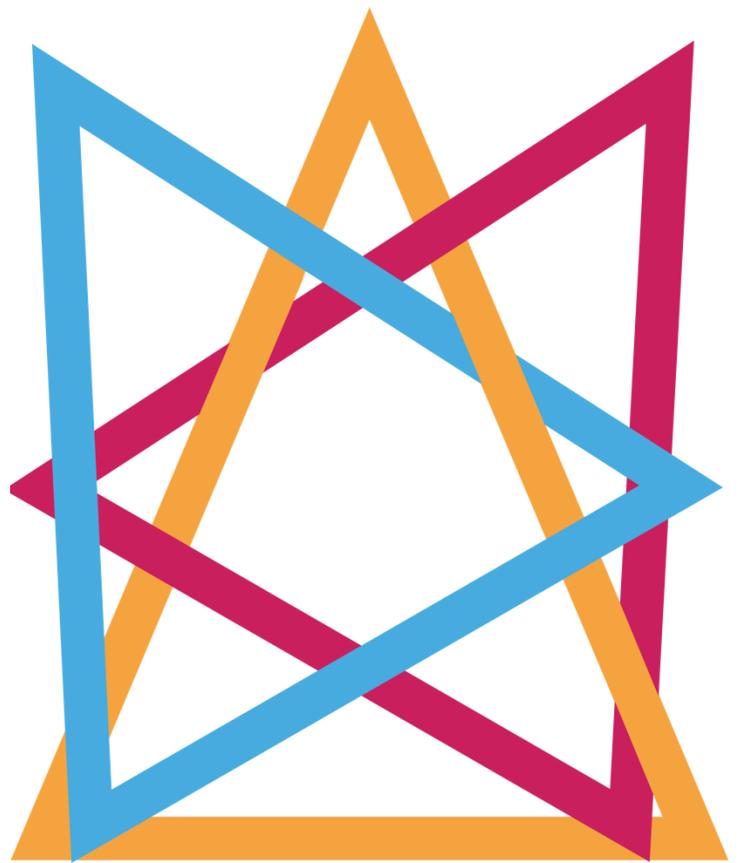
**<https://iphc.org/youthquest/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/11/2022-National-Bible-Quest-Guidelines-FINAL.pdf>**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
THE CONFERENCE OFFICE AT 540-674-4131 EXT. 201  
ONCE TEAMS ARE REGISTERED, SCRIMMAGES AND  
CONFERENCE DATES WILL BE DETERMINED.**

**APPALACHIAN  
CONFERENCE**

**FINE ARTS**

**APRIL 22 – 23,  
2022**



**I P H C F I N E A R T S**

**CHECK OUT THE NEW GUIDELINES AT:**

**<https://storage.snappages.site/2Q5D77/assets/files/2022-National-Fine-Arts-Guidelines-FINAL-9.pdf>**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES  
OFFICE AT 540-674-4131 EXT. 201!**



# Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



## **"A Fresh Start"**

Isaiah 43:18-19 says, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*



I've always heard that hindsight is 2020. It's so much easier to see things clearly when looking through a rearview mirror. We can look back over our shoulder and see mistakes that we have made that, had we known what we know now, we wouldn't have made them. We have all made bad decisions and have regrets. It's part of life. I'm sure there isn't a person alive that wouldn't change some things if they could have a do-over.

It is wise to learn from poor choices and mistakes, but I do not believe we are meant to live in the past and dwell on those things. I believe Isaiah 43:18 makes that very plain. Why shouldn't we live in the past? Because God has given us a new day! A fresh start! A chance to move forward and not lag behind. God also tells us in verse 19 that He is doing a new thing! He reminds us that He is making a way for us. He is taking care of us and we need to not focus on the past but look forward to our future.

Every year January brings a new opportunity. A chance to not spend time focusing on our previous year but looking ahead with great expectation that God is doing something we haven't seen before! He is doing a new thing! He is giving us all a fresh start.

2021 has had its ups and downs, as life always brings, but it's behind us now. Let's be anticipating the newness of 2022. New opportunities! New miracles! New insight! New vision! God is on the move! Let's take advantage of the fresh start He is giving us!



from the Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries Board,  
Tammy Porter, Wendy Lowe and Kim Galford



# World Intercession Network

Donna Hankla



## **A CHURCH THAT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME**

*LIFE CHANGERS CHRISTIAN CENTER - WYTHEVILLE, VA*

The pandemic had dealt a blow to the mountains of West Virginia. The churches in McDowell County felt the impact. Families struggled to stretch a paycheck. Prayers were made for the Big 4 P.H. Church and the community. And the day came when prayers were answered by a caring church!

*“And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving; and declare His works with rejoicing” (Psalm 107:22).*

### **DIVINE CONNECTIONS**

It is amazing when the Lord brings praying people together. We attended the Leadership Council in September. During the evening meal, my husband and Pastor Todd Porter of Life Changers Christian Center sat beside each other. They were drawn together by the Spirit. They discussed the need for food baskets for the Big 4 Church and Kimball community. Pastors Todd and Tammy committed to providing food baskets in the amount of \$1,000. However, when Pastor Todd presented the need to his church, the members responded by giving much more than imagined!

### **THE MIRACLE DAY: December 12, 2021**

Pastor Todd and Pastor Tammy brought a team of willing workers and 60 boxes of food to the church. Each box contained everything needed for a Christmas feast: a large ham, dressing, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and more. In addition, they gave each family \$50!

Glenna Carrol, of Big 4, prepared an information packet inviting the recipients to come to the church and to attend on-line teachings. Members of the Big 4 Church who delivered the baskets found open doors of opportunity to minister to families. Several families asked for prayer. Also, other families said they could not believe that a church would care so much! In addition, about 10 families said that they would be coming to Big 4 Church!

### **A CHALLENGE ISSUED**

This is a challenge to reach out to neighbors and communities. Call those neighbors, and pray for them. Help, if they have a need. Especially, pray for your neighborhood and see what God can do!

### **GOD KNOWS**

*“For God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love, which you have showed toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).*

# February Calendar

- 1 - 8** Mission Trip to Belize
- 17 - 19** Ministers' Summit - Pigeon Forge
- 21** Presidents' Day (Office Closed)
- 21 - 22** Leading Edge Conference - Emmanuel College
- 28** Call to Prayer