

THE GOSPEL

March, April, May 2020 | Vol. 95 No. 2

messenger

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1. There is but One living and true God, the great Creator, and there are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Genesis 1:1-27; Matthew 28:19; 1st John 5:7.
2. We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God. 2nd Timothy 3:16; 2nd Peter 1:20, 21.
3. We believe we are justified when we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ. Mark 1:15; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 5:1.
4. We believe Sanctification to be a definite work of grace subsequent to Salvation. St. John 15:2, 17:16, 17; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1st John 1:9.
5. We believe in the Baptism with the Holy Ghost, and speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance to be the initiatory evidence of this experience. Acts 2:4, 19:6, 10:44-46. Since the Spirit gives the utterance when one is baptized with the Holy Ghost, we reject the teaching that one who has received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost can speak in tongues at will, without the Spirit prompting the utterance.
6. We believe in divine healing for the body. Acts 3:2-12, 9:32-43, 5:15, 16; James 5:14. We do not condemn medical science.
7. We believe every gift we receive from God, including divine healing, comes through the merits of the atonement. Romans 5:11; James 1:16-17.
8. We believe in the operation of the nine Gifts of the Spirit. We also believe in the manifestation of the nine Fruit of the Spirit and recognize that these should be present in the life of every believer. 1st Corinthians 12:1-12; Galatians 5:22-23.
9. We believe in the imminent rapture of the church, and the personal, pre-millennial Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 1:10, 11; 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7.
10. We, as a church, believe in the eternal redemption of all saints who are faithful to the end. Matthew 24:13; Revelation 2:10. We reject the theory of "once in grace always in grace" regardless of conduct. 1st Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4.
11. We believe all who die out of Christ will be punished eternally, but those who die in Him shall share in His glory forever. Daniel 12:2; Matthew 24:46; St. John 5:29; Jude 7.
12. We believe the Bride of Christ is composed of the entire spiritual church. 1st Corinthians 12:25; 2nd Corinthians 11:2; Galatians 3:28, 29; Ephesians 4:16, 5:23-33; Revelation 19:7, 8.
13. We believe in the sacredness of marriage between one man and one woman. We promote commitment to strong family values. Ephesians 5:31-33, 6:1-4; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:5; Leviticus 18:22; Genesis 2:24.
14. We require all our ministers to speak the same thing and that there be no division among us in doctrine concerning our Articles of Faith. 1st Corinthians 1:10.



KEEPING THE faith

In this edition, we are talking about divine healing and will be reading many testimonies of what God has done for many when it seems as if there was no hope. We trust these testimonies will be a faith builder for you!

The Congregational Holiness Church states in our Articles of Faith, "we believe in Divine Healing for the body without condemning Medical Science." Article 7 states, "every blessing we receive from God, including Divine healing, comes through the merits of the atonement." This means everything is provided through Christ. What was lost when Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, Christ restored back to us. In my experiences in the ministry, it is hard for me to remember anyone who asked me not to pray for their healing. I have always tried to encourage people to read and quote healing verses. Two of my favorites are Isaiah 53:5. "But He was wounded for



BISHOP CHARLES HANSON

Bishop Charles Hanson serves as the General Superintendent of the Congregational Holiness Church.

our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed." 1 Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bares our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." One thing I know for sure, even before Adam fell into the trap of sin, God had a plan to deliver us from the power of corruption. If God provided a cure for the major illness, which is sin, we can be assured He made provisions for the side effects.

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

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The Gospel Messenger (USPS 223-340) is published quarterly for \$10 per year by the Congregational Holiness Church, Incorporated, 3888 Fayetteville Highway, Griffin, Georgia 30223. Periodicals postage paid at Griffin, Georgia, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **The Gospel Messenger**, 3888 Fayetteville Highway, Griffin, Georgia, 30223.

All dated material for publication in **The Gospel Messenger** must be in the office of the editor by the following dates: Winter edition: October 20; Spring edition: January 20; Summer edition: April 20; Fall edition: July 20.

Annual Subscription Price:
Individual – \$10 per year
Bundles of 10 – \$90 per year
Bundles of 25 – \$160 per year
Bundles of 50 – \$300 per year

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International Headquarters of the
Congregational Holiness Church, Inc.
3888 Fayetteville Hwy.
Griffin, Georgia 30223

Send all correspondence to:
THE GOSPEL MESSENGER
3888 Fayetteville Hwy.
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Email: messenger@chchurch.com
Phone: 800-633-0877
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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We also clearly see healing in the Old Testament. Genesis 20:17, "Abraham prayed unto God, and God healed Abimelech." Exodus 15:26, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." In 2 Kings 20:5, God told Hezekiah, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: Behold I will heal thee." And also, in 2 King 5:14, "Naaman, the leper obeyed the word of the prophet Elisha and went and dipped in the Jordan River seven times and was made clean."

In the New Testament, healing is made even more evident by Christ and His apostles. Acts 10:38 says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed with the devil for God was with Him." Also, in the New Testament, we see Jesus healing the blind, the deaf, and a woman with an issue of blood for thirty-eight years. He made the lame to walk, and in John 14:12, He says "Verily, Verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall these do, because I go to my Father." Divine healing is as real today as it has ever been and will continue to be until Christ comes and makes all things new! Revelation 22:2 says, "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manners of fruit, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

I am thankful for **GOD'S** **HEALING** and miraculous intervention!

There have been many times in my Christian walk that I have had to exercise faith to receive my healing and for others to be healed. Susan and I exercised faith twenty years ago. There are many details, but I will highlight the important part. Our daughter had given birth to a seemingly healthy baby girl. When she was ten days old, our daughter called and said that she was not drinking her milk and looked very

pale. She took her to the doctor, and he said she was in distress and rushed her to the hospital. They put her on a ventilator to help her heart and lungs rest. She was then transferred to the Children's Hospital in Atlanta. The doctor came out and said she had been diagnosed with coarctation of the aorta, which is like having a kink in a garden hose. No blood flow or oxygen was pumping into her lower part of her body. She was not strong enough to breathe on her. Three days later, lying in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, this little tiny baby took her little hand and pulled all those tubes out. The doctors then saw she was breathing on her own and took her immediately to surgery to correct the problem in her heart. I believe that the hand of God came down and touched her while she lay in that little bed. It was to be a long recovery, but in exactly one week of being admitted to the hospital, she was able to come home. She is now a grown woman of God who loves the Lord with all her heart! She will tell you that she knows God had a plan for her life.

I am thankful for God's healing and miraculous intervention!

In Hebrew 12:1 we read, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, (referring to those in chapter 11 and I believe those we know who have gone on), let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before."

I believe anything God has ever done for anyone; He can do for us! The Bible says He has no respect of persons. We can rest with all assurance that God knows our every need and will supply them according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus!

YOU'VE already GOT IT!



REV. SCOTTY POOLE

The Poole family. Scotty Poole serves as the World Missions Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.



DON DEL NERO

Don Del Nero and wife Wendy. Don serves as the North Georgia World Missions Director.

We often assume we need to think something special, say something special, or do something special to get something special. Dear brother or sister, you've already got it; and you have it all! The doing is done! You don't have to say, do, think, or be something special to get something special. Thinking, saying, doing, or being special has already been accomplished at the Cross! You are special! Just receive Him, His truths, His infinite glory, and His endless majesty, and you have all you need....right now say with conviction, "I believe it, I receive it because I've Already Got It"[1]. Post it on your mirror or the fridge and make it a daily pronouncement[2]. Declare those things that are not as though they are[3]. It will be the start to "daily" joy unspeakable and full of glory in your life! Christ is a person and a lifestyle, a way of thinking, and a way of living! The Gospel is God speak!

Are you constantly grasping for faith to get something from God? Just by going to Him earnestly, you have enough faith in Him to obtain whatever you need![4] What needed to be done was already done! Even more important, He gave the perfect measure of faith[5] because of what He did. It is not too little or too much, and it has no margin of error, i.e. it always has perfect accuracy! Like Robin Hood's arrow, it always strikes dead center at what it is aimed at. Aim your faith at your need by speaking God's Word into it[6], and it will not miss. It is like you keep your faith in your wallet or purse. Is that bad? Yes, faith is heaven's currency[7]. If you need to buy something, do you go spend the money and buy it? It is a God-given gift to spend the money you have to meet your needs[8] and your wants[9]. Do the same thing with the faith freely given to you. Pull it out of the Bible, like a wallet filled with money, and spend it by speaking what you need, and you'll have it. Obviously, the Bible is not a wallet and is the Holy, Eternal Scripture, but the metaphor is appropriate. After all, how can you bless others if you are always in need? Does the answer sometimes take time to manifest? Sure it does, that way you always know it came from a supreme God. Faith spending is voice-activated, and instead, you spend energy and emotions talking about how big your problems are instead of how big your God is. Think how many times your answer to, "how are you doing?" is negative. Spend your measure of faith on speaking the opposite of your troubles, and they will float away in the Water of the Word[10].

You compare the things you see to the majesty and spectacle of the Cross and the Finished Work to see, maybe unconsciously, what is greater, the circumstance or Christ, but you are trying to compare something to the incomparable. The Seven

Wonders of the World amount to a mosquito on a mountain compared to Christ's Royalty and Majesty. We don't need more faith to receive; we need less of the world! The "Christ the Redeemer" statue in Brazil is a dead statue made of cold concrete and inert soapstone, but you serve a living Christ who walked out of a tomb with blinding glory and irrepressible love emanating from every pore of His very being. He is an all-sufficient Christ[11] who will give all of Himself to you for your full and everlasting enjoyment. Religion teaches us we need to be prune faced with a serious look to be spiritual, but being spiritual in Christ should put a smile on your face. We need to rest in His majesty and live in His victory, and the smiles will come! Every subject of a great, respected, and honored king, lives in peace and rest because they live under the blanket of his authority. The same is true for everyone living as a subject under the Royalty of Christ Jesus, the real King!

To the New Covenant Christian, every day is a day of rest, not just the Sabbath! The Devil's plan is to get you to think you need to "pay" for your "rest," pay for your faith, and pay for your peace by working a job all week and waiting for the weekend to come to relax and unwind. Every day in God's Kingdom has rest and peace for you if you hold onto your faith. You see, God gave faith "handles" to hold onto. The handles are His Word. Forget His Word, and you take your hands off the handles[12]. The result is your faith slips. Jesus prayed that Simon Peter's faith would not fail him... what He was praying for was that Peter would remember all that Christ said and did. When you remember how faithful He has been to you, it is like a surge of electricity lighting a light bulb. All of a sudden, the things of this world pass away; they become far less monumental, and you focus on Him. The more you focus on Him, the more you become like Him.

Take an honest self-inventory of how you think about yourself and how often His Word consumes you. If you don't think highly of who you are, always feel like you need to be "doing," or His Word hardly ever captivates your every thought, you may be living under the curse. That does not mean you are cursed; it means you are living under the principles of a cursed person....an old covenant lifestyle. You are going to heaven, but you need to believe and rightly speak rightly, and what you desire you will have; in accordance with His will. Old things have passed away; ALL things have become new. Just receive my dearly beloved! Read His last Will and Testament, and you will see He left it ALL to you[13]. That is the heritage of the servants of the Lord!

I pray these comforting truths leap from these pages and are etched on your soul, riveted in your mind, and seared onto your heart by the incomparable Holy Spirit; that you would become captivated and saturated with the marvel and marvelous nature of an ever-loving Savior. He is the real Marvel character!



Van delivered to Nuevo Laredo



Worship Service in West Virginia

Executive Director's Report

In November, Don Del Nero, N Ga World Missions Director, and I delivered a van donated by Gospel Temple CHC, to Pastor Antonio Gonzalez in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico to be used for his church ministry. From there I joined Jose & Mary Rubio and Wanda Murray and traveled to Tamazunchale, Mexico to attend and minister in the National Women's Conference of Mexico. November 21-23 was the annual West Virginia Ministry. Over 400 food boxes were given out ministering to more than 150 families. There were 9 salvations from this event. I also preached at two of our CHC stateside.

In December, the bulk of our Christmas Shoeboxes were delivered to Mexico for distribution to the churches in Northern Mexico. This year a total of between 4000-5000 boxes were donated. We sent shoeboxes to Mexico, West Virginia, Place of Grace, Bahamas, Local Hispanic Ministry in North Florida. December 6-12, I attend and ministered with Hugh and Allen Skelton, JD and Sarah Sosebee, and Darryl Lovell in the annual Conference in Fortaleza, Ceara, Brazil. I preached at three CHC stateside.

In January, Redenna and I attended and I deliver the 11:00 message at the Florida District Conference. January 13-20, Jose Rubio attended the Guatemala Minister Conference and visited several churches in Guatemala and Southern Mexico. We held several evangelistic services during this trip. I will be attending Winter Renewal in Pigeon Forge, TN the 24-26 and on 30th will travel to Honduras to attend their National Conference. In January promotion has begun for the Missionary Internship program and the Motors for Missions program. I preached at one CHC stateside.

[1] 2 Peter 1:3

[2] Job 22:23

[3] Rom 4:17

[4] Hebrews 11:6

[5] Rom 12:3

[6] Prov 18:21

[7] Heb 11:6a

[8] Phil 4:19

[9] Ps 23:1

[10] Eph 5:23

[11] 2 Cor 3:5

[12] Deut 11:18, 22-25

[13] Eph 1:3



HOLDING ON TO *faith*

I am so thankful to be alive and to be able to bring you a message of hope. I feel like the Psalmist David, who said in Psalm 30:2-3, “O Lord, I pleaded with you, and you gave me my health again. You brought me back from the brink of the grave from death itself, and here I am alive!”

This journey of mine started in March of 2016. I have always had good health. I have never been sick beyond a cold or virus, the usual stuff. While taking a shower, I found a lump in my right breast. This was my first battle with cancer. I had chemotherapy and a mastectomy, and all went well. Three years later, cancer returned to my chest wall. It had also been discovered that there were cancer cells in the fluid around my right lung. This meant a drain had to be put in to drain the fluid away. I began radiation and more chemotherapy in October and had a PET scan in November of 2019. The scan showed cancer had spread again to my brain and spine, and more radiation was ordered. Two weeks later, the doctors ordered another scan, and all of the cancer was gone! Praise the Lord! Our God is a good God. He loves us and is always there for us. I have been through so much the last three years, but I can honestly say God has been right there with me.



SISTER JUDY SMITH

Sis. Judy Smith and husband Hugh. Rev. Hugh Smith serves as the Central Georgia District Superintendent for the CHC.

I believe the only way we can overcome something like cancer is by staying in the word. By reading and believing in God's word, we will be overcomers. We gain faith, trust, and peace through reading His word. There were many times I had to say His word out loud so that satan could hear me. There were days when my faith would waver. I would still believe in my heart, but there would be doubt in my mind. I would remember what Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief (satan) comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come (Jesus) that you may have life and have it more abundantly!" Satan is a liar, and I told him that many times! When satan tells you anything, believe the opposite. Joel 3:10 says, "let the weak say I am strong." No matter how we feel, we are strong in the power of God's might. Psalm 91:16 "With long life He satisfies me and shows me His salvation." Sometimes satan will bombard our minds and try to make us fear. Isaiah 41 says, "Fear not, I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. For I, the Lord, your God will hold your right hand."

I have so many scriptures that I love, and that has given me hope and peace. Psalm 118:17 is one that I quoted every day: "I shall not die but

live and declare the works of the Lord." There were times when I begin to really look forward to Heaven and being free from all the sickness. To be able to feel like me again would be wonderful. I know that day is coming. There have been so many people who have encouraged me on this journey, some of whom will not know what they said or did encouraged me until we get to Heaven. One day I was looking at Facebook and saw a young woman, who I did not know who was driving home from church with her young daughter. She noticed the little girl was very quiet. The mother asked her if she was ok, and the little girl said she was not feeling well. Her mom told her that she would pray for her when they got home. Then the little girl said, "No mom, I want to pray all the way home." The little girl touched my heart, and I decided that I, too, would pray, "all the way home."

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in this world

**I believe the
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WORD!**

you will have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). Jesus has already won the victory over death, hell, and the grave! Heaven will be worth it all. All the sickness, pain, and battles we will remember them no more. Revelation 21 says, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the

former things are passed away. He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son." Listen to God's word, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things!"

God's Word is our sustaining power. In His Word, I have found hope, reassurance, peace, and contentment in knowing that He overcame the world, and so can I. I do not know what my future holds but my God is already there! I will keep praying, "all the way home!" I love this old song we used to sing:

I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
there's been times I didn't know
right from wrong.

But in every situation,
God gave me blessed consolation,
that my trials come to only make
me strong.

Through it all,
through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
Through it all,
Through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.

I've learned to trust in God.
I know there have been many
praying for me, and I am so thankful
for every prayer. Please do not stop!
God has my life in His hands, and I will
accept what lays ahead for me. Jesus
Christ the same yesterday, today, and
forever.

So thankful!



EXCEEDINGLY. ABUNDANTLY. *above all.*



DR. MATTHEW TURNER

The Turner family: Matthew, Anna & Elia. Matthew serves the Congregational Holiness Church as the Mission USA Director.

In the middle of one of Paul's extraordinary books of the Bible, he offers a doxology of praise, wonder, and amazement. Throughout the book of Ephesians, Paul points to the salvation that has been afforded to all mankind through the sacrifice of Christ. It is this ultimate sacrifice that breaks down the dividing walls between Jews and Gentiles because all need the salvation that Jesus provides. Then as Paul builds praise and worship with his words, he comes to the end of the third chapter, where he tries to place into words God's mighty ability. He encapsulates God's brute strength, steadfast love, and amazing ability in four words: exceedingly, abundantly, above all.

EXCEEDINGLY – Have you read the story of creation lately? Moses, led by the Spirit, wrote about the days of creation. God speaks, and atoms were formed. God spoke, and those atoms joined together to make the earth, the moon, the sea, animals, and people. One little detail that Moses writes about has always stood out to me. Moses said, “he made the stars also” (Gen 1:16, KJV). Written almost as an aside to the main point of the verse, Moses points out that in the same moment God created the Sun and the Moon to rule the day and night, he also made the stars in the sky. In the Milky Way, astronomers estimate there are 100 thousand million stars. If one could travel beyond the Milky Way, there possibly could be millions upon millions more stars. All of these stars were created in a moment, with the command of God the Father. When you look up at the sky, and you see the vast amounts of stars twinkling in the night, remember that God can speak the word, and everything has to obey His command. Hold on to your faith because He can do exceedingly.

ABUNDANTLY – Thousands gathered on a hillside in Matthew 14 to hear the words that would come from Jesus's mouth. Multitudes were there waiting to hear and see what Jesus would do next. Jesus was told that it had been a while since everyone had last eaten, and the crowd was hungry. It was suggested to Jesus that he should dismiss the group to go back home so they can eat. Jesus responded, “They do not need to go away” (Matt 14:16). Why would they need to leave Jesus when He has everything they could ever need? Jesus blessed five loaves of bread and two fish. Then thousands of people were filled. Why would we search for anything outside of the will of Jesus when He has everything we could ever need or want? Hold on to your faith because He can do abundantly.

ABOVE ALL – The climax of the day in Matthew 14 would have been abundant if it would have ended with Jesus feeding the multitude of people. However, Jesus had another level of His ability that would show. Jesus sent His disciples on a boat ahead of Him while he went to spend time in prayer. While returning to where the disciples were, Jesus began to walk upon the water. Can you imagine seeing Jesus, in the flesh, walking upon the sea as if it was concrete under his feet? Jesus in a vivid display of His supremacy over this world and all its elements shows His disciples, and us too, that He can do above all that we could ask or think. Hold on to your faith because His power is above all.

PSALMS

62

*“Truly my soul waiteth upon God;
from him cometh my salvation”*

In my 48 years, I have lived different situations, like everybody. But the promises of God are faithful to us.

I am living in his promises, and this is comfort, especially during times of struggles. Is it important to believe in the promises of the Lord? This Psalm teaches us that a greater blessing comes when we speak to our soul the promises of God to keep believing because “from him cometh the salvation.”

In our ministry, we preach and sing Psalm 62:1 many times. It is encouraging to people and families who are struggling because it is easy to have faith in good times, but often not in the middle of the storm. Ps 62:2 says, “He only is my rock and salvation; he is my defense.”

I trust absolutely in God and His Word, and the power of proclaiming that Psalm. I remember when I visited a young man in the hospital. He was 26 years old and had a brain tumor. While he was waiting for surgery, I read and proclaimed that Psalm. While we are still waiting on the

miracle, I can see how God is bringing comfort for this young man and his family.

Psalm 62:5 says, “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.” I need to speak to my soul to keep going, keep walking, keep proclaiming the words of my God. Sometimes the struggles can bring confusion to our soul. We can begin to feel like we have lost our peace or our faith, but the remedy to this is the promises of God that are true in Heaven and the world.

Psalm 62:11-12 says, “That power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy.”



VICENTE ROJAS

Vicente Rojas and family. Pastor Vicente serves as the Hispanic Pastor at Christian Heritage Church in Graniteville, South Carolina.



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CONTEND FOR THE faith



REV. RONALD COOK

Ronald and Tonya Cook. Ronald Cook serves as the Men's Ministries Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.

The book of Jude states that we must contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. That faith is as necessary today as it was when it was written. The world would like to take us away from our faith. It is a faith common to all men. It is an enduring faith, a faith that we must trust in God until the very end. In the book of Jude, they had to trust in the finished work of Calvary. The ministry of the true Gospel preaching that man could live a life of victory in the midst of persecution and hard trials. Today, we must continue to contend, which means to struggle to surmount a difficulty, or dangerous circumstance, to have total victory in our lives. Let us continue in the things in which we've known, heard, and are assured in that one day, we will be in His presence, and we can rejoice and say, "thank the Lord we made it!"

faith



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

*The Willingham family:
Brian, Rebecca, Zach and Ally.
Brian is the Royal Rangers
National Commander for the
Congregational Holiness Church.*

Perhaps there is no more excellent summation of the Christian experience than the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Whenever I read this text, I am always intrigued by the vast divide between the soaring heights of victory and the dark chasms of defeat. For some, faith in God provided the miraculous ability to subdue kingdoms, stop the mouths of hungry lions, and quench the violence of fire. But for others, faith in God meant being tortured without deliverance. It meant being sawn asunder. It meant being destitute, afflicted, and tormented.

This wide variety of celebration and sorrow must have been on the mind of songwriter Tracy Dartt when he penned the following words: "Life is easy when you're up on the mountain, and you've got peace of mind like you've never known. Then things change when you're down in the valley. Don't lose hope for you're never alone."

Certainly, faith comes much more easily when our family enjoys excellent health, and the bills are paid on time with money left over. But what about the hard times? What about those moments of despair when the doctor has bad news, or our families are splintered by childish differences? Are our trials designed to defeat our faith?

The writer of Hebrews didn't seem to think so. Consider this

staggering observation in Hebrews 11:13: "These all died in faith, NOT HAVING received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them." KJV

The Amplified Version states it this way. "And these all died in faith (guided and sustained by it) without receiving the (tangible fulfillment of God's) promises only having seen (anticipated) them from a distance."

What incredible faith those believers had to trust God's promises- even to death!

It was this caliber of faith that led the writer of Hebrews to declare that the world was not worthy



I would like to thank my Royal Ranger family for their prayers and support over the last two years. You guys have stepped up in a big way during the time I've spent in training academies! I can now serve my fellow man much better!

—Commander Brian

of these men and women who chose to keep their trust in Jesus no matter what happened. Jude challenged us to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to those saints. Today, more than ever, we need to hold fast to our faith in Jesus Christ. He is the only One who ever changes.

"Time is filled with swift transitions. Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God's unchanging hand." – Jennie Wilson.

My prayer for each member of our church family is that we always hold fast to our faith in God. As always, thank you for your prayers for Royal Rangers! Your prayers DO make a difference!

SAVE THE DATE
GENERAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPRING RETREAT

For such a Time as This
Esther 4:14

APRIL 23-25, 2020

RAMSEY HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER
PIGEON FORGE, TN

GOD'S WITH US IN UNEXPECTED Seasons

Unexpected moments often occur in life. Brandon and I struggled with becoming parents. We had been trying to become pregnant for eleven months. With that first pregnancy test, it looked like God had finally answered our prayers. Around six weeks, I started having physical complications. We lost our insurance and could not afford to seek immediate medical attention. My husband and I hoped God would heal our baby.

By week eleven, we became hopeful. The risk of miscarriage drastically decreases after the first trimester. A nurse from the church helped us receive a free sonogram! The staff in the office was warm and friendly. The sonographer was kind. However, we noticed her expression change as she realized our pregnancy was molar. According to her diagnosis, there was no baby. We were crushed. Brandon and I felt abandoned and confined to this unexpected season of anguish.

Yet, in this difficult season, we knew God was with us.

"Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee

withersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

In Joshua 1:1-9, Joshua and Israel are facing an uncertain future. Israel's time of wandering in the wilderness is finally ending. Yet, there is one big problem: Moses is dead (v. 1). He had been Israel's fearless leader for decades. Who could possibly live up to Moses' legacy?

Moreover, Joshua is facing a personal crisis. His mentor is dead (v. 2). Joshua was being challenged to leave the familiar and to look towards an unknown future. Who would guide Joshua in this transition?

Seasons of change—whether positive or negative, expected or unexpected—can leave us mourning loss, such as: "the loss of a role, the loss of a person, the loss of a place, the loss of your sense of where you fit in the world."¹ However, we cannot remain paralyzed in our losses.

In Joshua 1:2, God emphasizes Moses' death a second time. Israel had mourned Moses' death for thirty days (Deut. 34:8). God tells Joshua, "Now, therefore, arise." It's time to move forward. The only way Israel could realize their ancient dream was for Joshua to accept his new position and move

beyond his pain. Otherwise, Israel will continue to camp just outside the Promised Land.

Joshua could move forward because God was with him!

God promised that Joshua would be invincible: "No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life" (v. 5a). Yet, this invincibility did not come from Joshua. It came from the invincible presence of the Almighty.

God promised to never fail Joshua (1:5c). "To fail" means to "relax his efforts."² God promised his continual support: to always fight vigorously on Joshua's behalf.

God promised to be with Joshua wherever he may go (1:9). God's presence is constant and never-ending. His presence knows no bounds.

Joshua will be successful because God is with him.

The same is true for you. The story of Joshua helps us realize the reality of God's continual presence. We do not have to be paralyzed by our fears, pain, or grief. God is fighting for us.

Looking back, Brandon and I can see that God never abandoned us. Friends

prepared us for the D&C by sharing their painful and hope-filled stories.³ Our pastors sat with us moments before surgery. Our church family cooked meals for us the week following the D&C. Two years later, our church celebrated our firstborn son! They showered us with gifts. They continue to spoil both of our handsome sons. Through the church's active presence, we realized that God was present in our season of pain.

Maybe you feel paralyzed by fear or grief. Be willing to move forward in faith. God is with you every step of the way!

Article written by Priscilla Willingham. Priscilla serves the CHC on the General Women's Ministry Board as the Secretary Recorder.



REV. WANDA MURRAY

Wanda Murray is the Women's Ministries Executive Director.

¹ Richard B. Joelson, "Managing Difficult Life Transitions," accessed December 7, 2019, <https://richardbjoelsonsw.com/articles/managing-difficult-life-transitions/>.

² R. L. Hubbard Jr., Joshua, New International Version Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009), 1638, Kindle.

³ D&C is a surgery performed after a first-trimester miscarriage.

faith BEGINS WHERE YOUR WORRY ENDS



TONYA COOK

Tonya Cook serves as the Missionettes Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.

In Hebrews 11:1, a very familiar scripture in the Bible states, “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Paul, in this chapter, is not defining what faith is, but what faith does. Faith is the foundation for our relationship with God and is the very beginning of everything that matters spiritually. In its purest form, faith is merely belief.

As most of you that read anything I write, it seems my inspiration comes through songs. Every time I think of faith, the old song “Living By Faith” comes to mind. I’ve often jokingly said, “I’m living by faith, and I feel ALL alarmed,” but we know as a child of God, faith is essential in our daily walk with Him. I included the words to this beloved hymn because some readers may have never sung or read it. It simply and so eloquently sums up how daily we need to live by faith.

“I care not today what the morrow may bring, if shadow or sunshine or rain. The Lord I know ruleth ore everything and all of my worry is vain.”

“Living by faith in Jesus above, trusting, confiding in His great love; From all harm safe in His sheltering arm, I’m living by faith and feel no alarm.”

“Though tempests may blow and the storm clouds arise, obscuring the brightness of life. I’m never alarmed at the overcast skies the Master looks on at the strife.”

“I know that He safely will carry me through no matter what evils betide. Why should I then care though the tempest may blow if Jesus walks close to my side.”

“Our Lord will return to this earth some sweet day our troubles will then all be o’er. The Master so gently will lead us away beyond that blest heavenly shore.”

Worry and faith cannot coincide with each other. We know that our fears end where we let our faith begin. We put our trust in an Almighty God who created us and who controls this universe to keep us through any situation in which life throws our way. When adversity comes, and the winds of life blow and we think that the Lord is so far away, that’s when we let faith arise and know that all we have to do is put our little hand in His big hand and He will safely lead us thru any trial life brings to us. Just let Him know today, Lord, my faith and hope lie solely in you, and I trust you to know what’s best for me! Don’t forget your worries can end precisely where your faith begins.

A poster for a Missionettes Session. The background is a close-up of a young girl with light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a gold crown. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

MISSIONETTES SESSION
GENERAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPRING RETREAT
APRIL 24, 2020
10 am - 12 pm in the Classroom
Devotion and Craft Time with
Anna Turner

KNOWING peace



Deborah Roach writes the article for the Heart to Heart Ministry for this issue. She and her husband Jeryle, pastor "The River Church" in Alto, Georgia. As you read the article, you will see she has fought a battle but has been victorious. Her faith in God sustained her. She held on to what she knew was true, even when the truth did not look true, she held on. She was steadfast. She was immovable. She kept serving the Lord. When she did not feel like getting up out of bed, she continued putting God first. We ask the Lord to continue to bless her, her family, and church family.



SUSAN HANSON

First Lady Susan Hanson. Susan serves the Congregational Holiness Church as the Ministers' Wives Director.



DEBORAH ROACH

The Roach's. Together, Jeryle and Deborah pastor The River CH Church in Alto, Georgia.

We used to sing a song called Peace Speaker by Geron Davis. The words of that song describe perfectly what we experienced in the Fall of 2016. I had been experiencing some fairly minor health issues. Nothing to get too concerned about, we thought. I was tired all the time, but no wonder! We were in the process of building a new church, and our schedule was super full! Besides that, I'm getting to be an old girl!

It was a beautiful fall day in the North Georgia mountains. My husband, Jeryle, and I were hiking at Talullah Falls. I sent him on ahead because I was struggling to keep up. My phone rings, and it's the Doctor, not the nurse... my head knows this can't be good!

He says, "some of your tests are back, and we know you do not have breast cancer, but you do have cancer. We are waiting for additional results on your biopsy from the Mayo Clinic to determine what kind of cancer it is. We will send to the oncologist when they get in, and they will call and set up an appointment to discuss with you."

I was not alone at that moment! Fear was there immediately! But more importantly, The Peace Speaker was there! I felt His Presence and fear began to leave! As clearly as I've ever heard the Lord speak, He said, "Deborah, you are going through the Fire, but I'm going with you, and when you come out, you will not even smell like smoke!"

Peace settled over my heart and mind. I even considered just keeping the news from my family because hearing The Lord's comforting Words and knowing He had me, was such a sweet place to rest! I didn't need or want to hear anyone else at that moment.

Of course, I didn't stay in that place as the journey to find out what was going on inside my body began. I ended up going to CTCA in Newnan, GA. In December of that year, we started a treatment plan to fight what we found out was stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Trusting God is the key to Peace! Knowing God is the Key to Trust! Our Faith is directly connected to our trust! In Isaiah 7:9 NLT "unless your faith is firm, I cannot make you STAND FIRM."

There were many times during this season that fear would return. My flesh would cause my faith to waver. But The Word that was in me and prayers and encouragement from so many of my Brothers and Sisters, would pick me up and help me stand firm!

There were times when I would be so weak from the chemo that I couldn't think straight or praise my way out of a paper bag! I would crank up the music with songs that praised the goodness and the greatness of our God. The Holy Spirit would minister to me. I came to know Him intimately as My Comforter and My Peace Speaker!

I am now cancer-free and celebrating with much thankfulness, great health! No smell of smoke! God takes what the enemy meant for evil, and He turns it for our good!

Words to "Peace Speaker"

"It was such a lovely day; the sun was shining bright. The gentle wind was blowing my way Not a storm cloud insight. Then suddenly without warning, Storm's surrounded my life."

"But even in the storm, I could feel the calm and here's the reason why, I know the Peace speaker. I know Him by name, I know the Peace speaker, He controls the winds and waves When He says, "Peace! Be still!" They have to obey, I'm glad I know the Peace speaker. Yes, I know Him by name"

trust HIM



HANNAH ENGLISH

Hannah English serves as the Junior Mission USA Administrator for the CHC. Hannah is a member of River of Life CHC in North Georgia.

Two years ago, on New Year's Eve, my life changed completely. My dad received a call that he had gotten a church two hours away. That meant I would be moving away from everything I had ever known. It was a bittersweet feeling for me because I knew God was telling me He had far greater things planned for my future than I could ever imagine, but I still felt fear and sadness. I am the oldest of my three siblings, and I knew they look up to me, so I had to be brave and continue to trust God. We went through the process of moving, and I started a new school. I had always been either homeschooled or

He is a
**PROMISE
KEEPER!**

attended a private school, but my new school was a public school. The atmosphere was so much different than anything I had ever been in, but I knew God was placing me on a huge battlefield. Things started to get more familiar in my new town, and I started to see God putting things together that had not made sense before. Two years later, I can't imagine my life any

differently, and I am so thankful God sees the whole picture. Jesus was and will always be my rock.

I know that without Him, I would not have made it through that rough transition. I am involved in a Christian club at my school and am daily given opportunities to spread the love of Jesus to all people. If you are stepping out in faith and things seem hard for you to handle, trust God and leave the situation in His hands. Just like my siblings looking up to me, there are people looking up to you and seeing how you will react to your situation, so don't let your circumstances determine your relationship with Jesus. Stay rooted in Him. I can tell you one thing for sure is that if God has called you to do something, He will not let you down. He is a promise keeper! During times when you can't see how any good can come out of a situation, know that God has a plan for everything, and He only wants what is best for His children.

"For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

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SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
15 PROJECTS COMPLETED FOR THE CHC
AND MUCH MORE

HELP US ACCOMPLISH GREATER THINGS IN 2020