

THE GOSPEL

December 2020 - February 2021

messenger

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Following CHRIST'S CALL

THE STORY OF MINISTRY FROM
REV. HUGH SKELTON AND REV. BILL LEWIS

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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.



FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL

If you attended Emmanuel College in the 60's and lived on campus, you were required to attend Wednesday night prayer meeting. At that time, the pastor of the local Franklin Springs Pentecostal Holiness Church was Dr. John Swails. Dr. Swails was a great teacher, and later became a great friend: but he was rather dry when it came to preaching.

This Wednesday was no different from the rest. At the end of the message, everyone was asked to kneel at their bench for a closing prayer. While kneeling, God seemed to speak to my heart: "I want you to preach the Gospel." I did something that night that I had never done before: I put out a fleece. My words to God were, "God, I am not going to tell a living soul about our conversation. If you really want me to preach, impress upon a pastor to ask me to preach at his church next Wednesday night." I went back to the dorm and forgot about my conversation with God.

Early the next morning I was out in Sis. Kathleen Bowling's front yard washing my red VW bug. Sis. Bowling lived next door to the church. Her neighbor across the street was Rev. Dennis Phillips. In the corner of my eye, I noticed Dennis as he walked out of his front door and headed toward me. As he approached, he said, "Wayne, during my prayer time this morning, God impressed upon my spirit to ask you to preach for me next Wednesday night at Freedom. Can you do it?" What could I say? I agreed to preach my first sermon on September 22, 1965. The following Wednesday night, Rev. Pierce Ashmore asked me to preach for him at Bethel and that was the beginning of me following Christ's call.

In September of 1967, I was seated at my piano in Lincolnton when my phone rang. An elderly gentleman named Bro. Floyd Ray was calling me from Bowman, Georgia. To this day I still remember his words: "Bro. Hicks, I'm from the Corinth Church and we want you to be our pastor." I had never

even heard of the Corinth Church! We arranged for a time for me and my small family to make the 65 mile trip from Lincoln to Bowman for me to preach for them. They elected us as their pastor and that small church began to grow. We spent six years at Corinth and we still visit them today. That was the next step for me to follow Christ's call.

Our youngest son, John Michael, was born in 1972 with some physical problems. There was a possibility that, when he reached his teens, he would need heart surgery. While lying in bed one night, God seemed to speak to my heart: "If you will enter full-time ministry, I will heal John Michael's heart." That was a very difficult step. To leave your family and roots and move to a new location where everyone was strangers. In August of 1975, Cheryl and I accepted our first full-time church. There could not have been a better place for us to pastor than the Bethel Temple Church in Demorest, Georgia. We spent eight wonderful years there. That was the next step for me to follow Christ's call.

It has been my distinct honor to serve on the GEB of our denomination for thirty seven years and on the North Georgia District for six years. I have never sought the office of Bishop. With Bishop Hanson's untimely death, again God impressed me to accept the office if it was offered. The General Committee unanimously elected me as your General Superintendent to complete the unfinished term of Bishop Hanson. I am doing my best to full-fill those plans he has

With Bishop Hanson's untimely death, again God impressed me to accept the office if it was offered. The General Committee unanimously elected me as your General Superintendent to complete the unfinished term of Bishop Hanson.

I AM DOING MY BEST TO FULL-FILL THOSE PLANS HE HAS ALREADY PUT IN PLACE.

already put in place. We are preparing for our Centennial General Conference in 2021. This is going to be a mile-stone for the CHC. With your support and prayers we can have a great conference. I am doing everything in my ability to FOLLOW CHRIST'S CALL. Are you?



**BISHOP WAYNE AND
CHERRYL HICKS**

*Bishop Hicks serves the CHC as
General Superintendent.*

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

EDITOR
Matthew Turner

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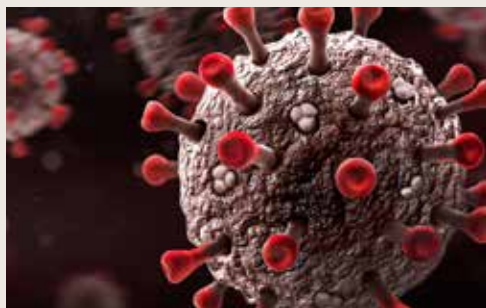
Executive Director's Report

In May, June, and July, there has been no travel outside the country because of the COVID travel restrictions. There has been limited travel to churches in the states as I ministered at two churches during this time. I also have attended several in-person services and been a part of virtual services.

COVID-19 has caused a stoppage of all church construction as in-country travel restrictions are in place for most countries in Central and South America and Africa. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have lost three pastors in Mexico and Guatemala and have had many experience sickness around the world. The World Missions Department has sent aid for pastors to many of our countries to help them through this trying time.

However, the work of missions cannot be stopped. We completed the first module of the International Ministers Training Program with our classes in Aruba and are getting the second module ready to launch. Also, in July, we have officially accepted eleven churches and pastors in Colombia to the CHC family with Pastor Franklin Quiñones serving as Superintendent.

Thank you for your giving and support during this time, as we have been able to help in the time of need to many throughout the world.



YES, LORD!

There is a song that I remember being sung in the church I grew up in, and it was “Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow.” As those words were sung, it seems so simple and easy to follow Christ. All I had to do was listen to the Bible, hear the direction of the Holy Spirit, and begin to walk in the path Jesus had before me. But for me, I made it hard, not easy. I’m not sure if I didn’t trust God or felt unworthy or did not think I could maintain the life I felt He required or if it was a combination of them all, but the decision to follow His call into ministry was an eleven-year journey rather than a moment where I simply said: “**Yes, Lord.**”

When I was 19 years old, just a few months before I was to get married, I began to grow closer and closer to the Lord. This was mainly because of the influence that Redenna had on my life as I watched her serve the Lord. Then it happened; I began to feel the call to preach the gospel. At first, I just thought I was kind of crazy. I didn’t even know most the books of the Bible and only knew some of the more famous stories of the Bible. I began to talk with my brother-in-law Dwayne who had previously accepted the call to preach, wanting him to tell me if I was called or not. I dismissed the call and began the eleven-year journey of being in and out of the church, as my relationship with the Lord grew stagnant.

Every time I would be drawn back to church and closer to the Lord, I would eventually face the same decision. Will I follow His call to ministry in my life? **Each time I would drift back away from the Lord. And just like the Children of Israel, every time I drifted away, I would drift further and stay away longer.** Finally, one night at my work, I faced a situation that scared me because I did not know exactly how I would respond. I still felt God’s hand on me, but I was far from Him. As I was alone that night, I just knew that God was showing me my need for Him. I decided to fully follow Christ. I did not answer the call

preach yet, but I went running back to Him. As I started growing closer to Him and trying to serve Him more faithfully one Sunday night I faced that same decision, that same call to ministry. While struggling in prayer with the same excuses not to preach, that night, a dear saint of God spoke these words in my ear; **“just tell Him yes!” I said yes, and my life has not been the same since.**

Answering His call to ministry has been the best thing, other than salvation, I have ever done for my life spiritually. That was over 25 years ago, and there have been ups and downs, good days and not so

...“just tell Him **YES!**” I said **YES**, and my life has not been the same since.

power to overcome once I said yes. It is incredible that, through my answering yes to His call, my life has been shaped and formed by Him to be pleasing to Him. However, I do have one regret, and that is that I did not say yes the first time He called. Sometimes I do wonder what my life would look like had I answered yes when He first called, but all I can do now is tell others how good it is to say Yes to the call of Christ on your life. **My prayer for you is this: If He is calling you, just say Yes.** Remember, He is the potter, and you are the clay. He will mold you and shape you into the vessel He desires. Will you tell Him yes today?



REV. SCOTTY POOLE

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



1

LIMITED TRAVEL & CONTACT

Due to the uncertainties of travel from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to have social distancing and limit contact, CHC World Missions is changing the way these two events will be carried out this year.



2

NOT CANCELING-CHANGING

We are still encouraging everyone to participate in these two events. Even though they will not be the same this year as in the past it is still an opportunity for you and your church to participate in ministry.



3

CHRISTMAS SHOE-BOXES

At this time, the border of Mexico is closed to travelers from the USA. CHC World Missions WILL NOT be collecting items to send to Mexico. We WILL NOT be sending any physical shoe boxes this year.



4

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES: HOW TO PARTICIPATE

CHC World Missions WILL RECEIVE offerings to forward to our ministers in Mexico and they will purchase the items necessary to give out the Christmas Shoe Boxes. You can send the offering to CHC World Mission designated to Christmas Shoe Boxes. This way the children can still be blessed.



5

WEST VIRGINIA MINISTRY

CHC World Missions WILL NOT be collecting food this year for West Virginia. We also WILL NOT be traveling to West Virginia. This has been a successful ministry for the past several years and we hope it will be in the future. We are offering a couple of options so you can still be a part of this type ministry.



6

WEST VIRGINIA ALTERNATIVE

Here are a couple of suggestions you can do this year.

- Send an offering to World Missions and we will send it to West Virginia to be use for the food ministry to the people.
- Collect food at your local church and distribute it to those in need in your community.

Just because we are dealing with COVID-19 does not mean ministry stops. Continue to do the work of the ministry by altering this year how you are doing ministry.

A LIFETIME OF MINISTRY

“An Interview with Rev. Hugh Skelton and Rev. Bill Lewis”

When Jesus first called his disciples, there was something about His call, the twelve men heard and felt, which caused them to dedicate themselves to Him from that moment forward. Jesus called out, “follow me” to the disciples in the book of Matthew. The Greek word used to get the English translation is *deute*. This Greek word gives us a better picture of the call Jesus gave to the disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The call was an impassioned plea to “come here after me.” Somehow in a short sentence, Jesus, with the tone of His voice or the passion that poured out from Him, communicated a wealth of words to those men. What Jesus called the men to was a life of devotion. Yes, Jesus was asking the disciples to follow Him and be devoted to Him. However, this is only part of what Jesus was communicating. Jesus also devoted himself to those men whom He called. Following someone means that someone is in front of you, and you are using that person as a guide to traverse the terrain. Over the lifetimes of Rev. Hugh Skelton and Rev. Bill Lewis, God’s hand can be clearly seen. Jesus truly guided them in ministry to reach thousands of people in many different countries.

The following interview took place over several different days, covering five different questions about the ministries these two men have had over their lives. Rev. Skelton and Rev. Lewis share their stories hoping that it will bring encouragement and blessing to all who read them.

Rev. Hugh Skelton

QUESTION: Tell me about when you accepted the call into ministry.

I accepted the call to ministry when I was seventeen. I was a student at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia. I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home, and I had heard my father say that God had promised him a son who would preach the Gospel. This statement stayed with me even though I was often very sick and in bed and did not



Rev. Hugh and Louise Skelton. The Skelton’s have served as missionaries to Cuba and 84 other countries for the CHC.



Rev. Bill and Elizabeth Lewis. Rev. Lewis served as the First Assistant General Superintendent for the CHC for 24 years.

see how this would ever be possible. I had to be sure the call was from God and not from my father. I was in the Boy Scouts and had made many speeches on behalf of the Scouts, and therefore I was not afraid of speaking in public. One night while at a school prayer meeting, I heard the voice of the Lord that said it was time I obeyed His will. Two other classmates and I began to go out on the streets and give out tracts and preach as best we could.

My call to missions came much later while visiting my sister on the island of Cuba. The first service I was in proved to be a change in my future that only the Lord could develop. His voice was clear, "Son, I want you to return to the States and prepare your life to return to Cuba and work among these people." From that day to the present, my life has been devoted to obeying the Lord's will in the "regions beyond."

QUESTION: What has it meant to you personally to be in the ministry over the years?

This is my seventy-third year in ministry, and to say what it has meant to me personally cannot be put in a sentence or two. It would really take another book to say what God has done for and through me. All my life has been living for others. To have been blessed to visit eighty-five countries and share the Gospel with thousands is what I have endeavored to do, to God be the honor and glory.

QUESTION: Share a moment in your ministry that stand out to you.

On December 18, 1960, I boarded a plane in Santiago de Cuba, and I trusted I was on my way to freedom and the USA. That day will always be the most important day of my life.

QUESTION: What is one of your favorite passages of scripture? What does it mean to you?

As a Missionary, Psalm 2:8, "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession." It is a promise of the Father and one on which I could always depend no matter what the situation.

QUESTION: What advice can you give to a young minister who has accepted the call into the ministry?

I have learned that I must always listen to what others have to say. I have learned that God uses different methods to accomplish His will. I have learned that legalistic rules can hinder God's work, but they cannot prevent Him from accomplishing His purpose. I have learned that I am not to depend fully on my education, experience, or knowledge but to depend on the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I have learned that God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible. I have learned that the smallest deed is better than the greatest intention. I have learned that the victory Christ won on the cross is my victory and that God is my source of supply.

Rev. Bill Lewis

QUESTION: Tell me about when you accepted the call into ministry.

I was born and raised in the CH church. When I was a kid, my dad had an old car garage that he did not use. I got me a wooden box that I used as a pulpit and started preaching to the neighborhood children. That is where my ministry began. I served several years in the armed forces, and at 24 years old, I gave my heart to the Lord. I was attending Bro. Sorrow's church, Calvary Temple in Atlanta, an independent church, and I knew I wanted to be licensed in the CHC. I started attending the West Griffin CHC, which is now the Living Waters CHC. I became the choir director, then I was elected as the Central Georgia Youth Director and served in that position for eight years. Then I was elected General Youth Director and served in that position for eight years. Then I was elected as the General Secretary for the CHC. After that, I was elected as the First Assistant General Superintendent and served in that position for twenty-four years.

QUESTION: What has it meant to you personally to be in the ministry over the years?

It has been my life. While I worked in real estate for twenty-four years, the ministry has been my life.

QUESTION: Share a moment in your ministry that stand out to you.

Some of the highlights of my ministry have been able to preach several Campmeetings around the CHC. I have been honored to preach East Carolina, South Alabama, and Florida District Campmeetings on many occasions.

Another special memory I have is while preaching a revival at the Manntown CHC in Florida; I befriended a man whose family had many things in common with my family and me. We became friends, and while preaching that revival in Manntown, I received a phone call that my friend was in the hospital and was not expected to live, and the family of the man asked me to come to see him. So I drove from Manntown to the Georgia Baptist Hospital where he was and visited him and had prayer, and he passed away right after we prayed. The nurses later told me, "he was just waiting on you to get here." That is one of the special moments in my ministry.

QUESTION: What is one of your favorite passages of scripture? What does it mean to you?

Psalm 91, I go to sleep every night quoting that passage.

Ps 91:1-4 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

QUESTION: What advice can you give to a young minister who has accepted the call into the ministry?

Be faithful – no matter what disappointments come. Stay true to the Lord.



I MUST FOLLOW – HE WILL DO THE REST



DR. MATTHEW TURNER

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

His call could not have been more simple. “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19, NASB). This first call came to two fishermen, Simon Peter and Andrew. Perhaps one of the most surprising parts of the story is that Simon Peter and Andrew dropped what they were doing at that very moment and began to follow Christ. It was as if the two brothers immediately recognized two things. First, they realized that Jesus was no ordinary man. When he spoke, there was compassion that echoed from his voice. This was seen greatly as Jesus continued his ministry. Scripture shares how the disciples were firsthand witnesses to Christ’s kindness as He went from town to town. Matthew accounts for these moments when Jesus went from town to town and said, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36, NIV). There was also an authority that Jesus spoke with that they have not heard before. While there were plenty of rabbis, religious leaders, and others who were passionate about God, Jesus’s voice and His call were different. When Jesus taught the Scriptures, Matthew accounted, “he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law” (Matt. 7:29, NIV). Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, the two brothers recognized in a moment that Jesus had something that they did not have, and they desperately wanted. Simon Peter and Andrew, being created by God, the Father, intrinsically knew the voice of their creator and wanted to be with Him. Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (Jn. 10:27, NIV). While they did not know everything that the call demanded, they knew in a moment they needed to follow this man named Jesus. This call was given to ten other young men who forsook the life they were living and began to follow Christ.

Jesus called the twelve men to a relationship.

The young men would live the rest of their lives doing incredible things. The Church not only was started with the disciples, but like a wildfire spread beyond anything any of them ever dreamed. However, Jesus did not call them to change the world. The disciples were not smart enough or experienced enough. They were anything but qualified in the world's terms to start a world-changing movement. Jesus is the one who would change the world. Jesus is the one who would begin His church. Jesus is the one who would change lives. Jesus called his disciple to a relationship with Him. Jesus called them to follow Him.

You may have picked up this Messenger feeling the pressure of your congregation, your peers, or your internal expectations to come up with an idea, ministry, or outreach that will radically change your community or even the whole world. Trust me; I know how you feel. As a former pastor, I too often slipped into this mentality that my church would not be “successful” if I did not always have some new fresh idea to change our community radically. The reality was I didn't have

the answers. Because I had that mentality, I too often felt like an epic failure. You may have picked up this Messenger feeling like you are not where you are supposed to be because you don't have the giftings and

JESUS is
calling **YOU**
to follow Him!

callings that you see other people have. You may be reading this and just have wondered what in this wide world does God want you to do? The answer for you is the same as it was for Simon Peter, the Apostle Paul, and Reverend Billy Graham. **Jesus is calling you to follow Him.** He wants you to be in a relationship with Him.

When you are in a relationship with Him, and you are learning and growing close to Him, He will begin to reveal the specific plan He has for your life. When Jesus gave His call to Simon Peter and Andrew that day on the side of the Sea of Galilee, He told them to follow Him, “and I will make you.” Jesus told them to take the step to follow Him, and He would do the rest. As a leader, it gives me great peace and relief to know that all I must do is commit to following Him, and He will do the rest. He will tell me what I need to know what I must do, which direction to go. **I must follow Him; He will do the rest.**

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SUMMER WILLINGHAM

SELECTED TO SERVE



The putrid stench of unwashed bedpans. The ghostly groans of the elderly whose minds had been stolen by dementia. The institutional coldness of the metal chair on which I sat. Nothing about the nursing home ministry appealed to my eight-year-old mind. Worst of all was the perpetual compulsion that seemed to possess many of the elderly women to pinch my boyish cheeks while making that dreaded pronouncement: “He is so cute! I bet he will be a minister just like his father.”

“Not me!” I thought.

Strangely enough, by the time I had reached the age of sixteen, I was conducting my very own nursing home ministry. How I treasure the memories of my small congregation of convalescing adult patients who simply needed someone to remind them that God had not forgotten them in their later years.

God has a supernatural way of changing our hearts. Of causing us to love things, we would normally spurn. Although I did not realize it as a child, God had irrevocably selected me to serve Him long before I had a desire to do so.

Looking back upon my life, I am eternally grateful that God looked past my natural aversion to those in need and saw within me the potential to care for others.

God has a calling for all of us. For me and, yes, for you! Do you feel an inner longing for meaning? Perhaps, this hunger has been created by an unanswered call. There are needs all around us. God is on a constant search for men and women who will answer the call to service. Will you answer the call?

During this time of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, I am thankful for those who continue to pray for Royal Rangers. Your prayers are treasured!

In closing, let me assure each of you that you are in our prayers as well! Do not lose heart! In due time, we will reap a harvest if we do not faint!



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

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

Congregational Holiness Church General Women's Ministries

Spring Retreat

March 25-27, 2021

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with **Rev. Beth Stephens-Johnson** and Worship with **Jeremiah Yocom**

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THE KEY TO BLESSINGS



REV. WANDA MURRAY

Wanda Murray is the Women's Ministries Executive Director.



REV. MAGGIE PRUITT

Rev. Pruitt lead the International Women's Ministry Department from 1999-2017.

The key to blessings is following Christ in all things. On a personal note, I learned years ago that following Christ brings manifold blessings. After being General WM President for 18 years, I knew my ministry was ending in this field, but little did I know I would step into a pastoral position. God always has a plan and a call for us, and our ways are not his ways. **I'm so glad I said yes to the call because it has been worth every mile I traveled.**

It's not always going to be easy to follow the call, but it will always be worth it. There will be times when you will encounter hardships, lose sleep, and be in danger, but we must still be faithful to Christ's call. In Isaiah 6:8, the prophet Isaiah said he heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, he said, Here I am Lord, send me. Even as our Lord Jesus didn't want to go to the cross, but as he prayed in the agony of his soul, he said nevertheless, not my will, but thy will be done.

There'll be times we may not want to go, but we must continue to carry our cross. We must work while it is day because the night is coming when no man can work. Can we take a break? Can we sit down? I can tell you the answer is no. We must be faithful even in difficult times, and we may have to minister from a different avenue, but we must continue to follow our calling. The bible says, take up thy cross and follow Him, and we must be faithful until God says, it is finished.

There'll be times we may not want to go, but we must continue to **CARRY OUR CROSS.**

—Maggie Pruitt



PRESSING ON



TONYA COOK

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

This year, for so many, has held its ups and downs and highs and lows and sometimes left us wondering where God is. But something from deep within pulls and constrains me to push forward to the prize of the high calling which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We're facing times like never before with violence, sickness, and turmoil. However, this, my friend, is even more of a reason to press on. I've felt the call on my life ever since I can remember, and nothing makes me happier than to be in the house of the Lord and serving Him.

As circumstances this year have kept us from life, as usual, I decided to bring a little joy via social media. We held our first virtual Missionette Session on April 23, 2020, with special guest Anna Turner. We were able to reach out to our girls and bring a little bit of what our Missionettes session would've been like if we had been able to gather in Pigeon Forge. Special thanks to Anna for helping make this possible. Thru the promotion of our brand new Missionette T-shirts, so many have shown their love, support, and devotion, and I'm eternally grateful. These shirts are still available, and we would love for you to have one!

Things seem to be becoming more normal, so we were able to visit South Alabama's Youth Camp and then on to East Carolina Campmeeting and South Alabama as well. During all this upheaval in our world, the question is being asked, "do you go because it's your duty and obligation?" Even though it may be on the outside, a hunger burns to see God's power more real and manifest in today's world more than ever. So, my answer is "No." That high calling and commission bid me go, and I pray that even though my flesh is weak, my Spirit man will always say, "Yes Lord, thank you for calling me! I love you all and thank you for all you do for the girls of our denomination!"

-Tonya Cook



Amanda and her husband, John Henry Anderson, currently pastor the Yonah CH Church in Alto Ga, where they are doing phenomenal great work. They have always been busy doing God's work in different churches as youth pastor at Bethel Temple and Alto CH church. They have six children, two sons-in-law, and their first grandbaby is due in November. She is very passionate about seeing God's people set free through divine healing and deliverance. Please keep them in your prayers as they lead and guide God's people at Yonah CH Church.

—Susan Hanson

DEEPER WATERS

Two years ago, I heard Jesus call to my spirit to follow Him into deeper waters. I was excited that Jesus was giving me such an opportunity. Then, I was afraid. I feared that maybe I wasn't ready to walk in the deep waters with my Savior. Maybe, I had not prayed enough, fasted enough, or studied enough. Perhaps, I would disappoint Him if, in deep waters, He found that I could not swim. Of course, all of these fears were unwarranted. I didn't need to know how to swim. I just needed to know how to get to Him. Jesus knew everything about me before He called me. He knew my weaknesses, but He also knew my strengths outweighed them. Jesus knew that I would follow when He called to me.

To follow the call of Christ on anyone's life, perfection is not required. All that He requests from us is obedience. He asks that we move toward Him even when we don't know where our next step will land. He requires that we lean on Him and not on our own understanding. He requests that we trust Him above all else. Simply put, He requires that we follow when He calls.

Uncharted territory, new beginnings, the digging of old wells, the passing away of old things, valleys, and mountain tops are all to be expected when following Christ's call. I knew all of this when I prayed a prayer that

changed everything. I prayed, "Here I am Lord, send me." Just as Isaiah 6:8 KJV says, "Also, I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I; send me."

Jesus called me into the deep waters. I chose to follow His call. In the deep, I have found an indescribable closeness to my Heavenly Father. I have found an unimaginable intimacy with my Lord and Savior, Jesus. And in the deep, I have found the greatest teacher and helper in the Holy Spirit. As I have followed Christ's call into the deep waters, He has given me a fresh anointing. This anointing allows me to be everything I am called to be for such a time.

Do not be afraid to follow Christ's call. For wherever He may call you, I can promise the journey will be worth it! If He has called you to preach, then preach as if lives depended on it because they do. If He has called you to teach, then teach as if everyone needed to hear because they do. If He has called you to pastor, then pastor as if people need you because they do. If you are called to be an apostle, then do the work of an apostle as if everything needed to be rebuilt because it does. If you are called to evangelize, then evangelize as if the whole world needed to be saved because it does. Are you willing to follow Christ's call too?



SUSAN HANSON

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



**AMANDA AND JOHN
ANDERSON**

John and Amanda serve the Yonah CH Church as Senior Pastor

FOLLOW JESUS



FOLLOWING GOD'S CALLING FOR YOUR LIFE

God has many callings He can place upon our lives, whether it be Preacher, Teacher, Singer, etc. In all of these callings, God can use you mightily. God can use whoever He chooses only if they are willing to step into God's will and follow what he has set before them to do. Many people in the Bible received their blessings because they were in God's will; if they hadn't been, they would have surely perished. At this day and hour, we are in; we need to be in God's will, Or else this world is just going to swallow us up. The Bible even says that the devil is roaming to and fro seeking whom he may devour. And sometimes, it may seem like God's calling, God's will, or God's plan for our lives is not what we want it to be, but we have to remember that He knows what's best for us. And that He sees the future, He sees our next breath before we even take it, He knows every hair on our head, He is so mighty, and we cannot even begin to comprehend what He is going to do in our lives. And God's voice will probably not come to you as a mighty voice. It will come as a whisper as it did unto Elijah when he heard all the sounds in the cave. He heard the lightning, but God was not in the lightning. He listened to the thunder, but God was not in the thunder. He heard an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. Then he heard a still small voice, and it was the Lord. And to hear the voice of God and to get me in tune with heaven, you must read your Bible; you have to be praying and fasting, you have to be in tune with God. God is going to use those that are the most willing. And those who are the closest to Him. We have to stand up and be a light in this generation.



TRISTEN DOTSON

Tristen serves as the Junior General Superintendent for the CHC. Tristen attends the North Griffin CHC in Griffin, Georgia.

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The background of the lower half of the page is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous bright, multi-pointed stars of varying sizes, creating a bokeh effect.

MERRY *Christmas*

from the Congregational
Holiness Church!