

THE GOSPEL

# messenger

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THE STORY OF EDIMAR CORDEIRO

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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.

## EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER



*by Stephen Phillips*

### Stanza:

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS,  
ALL OUR SINS AND GRIEFS TO BEAR!  
WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO CARRY  
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER!

Before I could read I probably knew the lyrics and was singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." I had heard Brother Elton Marchant lead our church in this song countless times and thus knew it by heart. As Christians, we do come to understand the reality that we indeed have an amazing faithful friend in Jesus. While we were yet sinners He loved and gave Himself for us, forgiving us, and washing our sins away. He knows our thoughts and weaknesses yet cares deeply about our lives. As this truth is beyond amazing, there is a line in this great hymn by Joseph Scriven that grabs my attention:

"What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."

What an incredible privilege! Can you even grasp the fact that the God of the Heavens and the Earth listens to us? He invites us to petition Him with our every concern. He's not put off by our many requests regarding our struggles or sadness, fears, and feelings, or trials and tribulations. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This privilege of peace gained through prayer is based solely upon a relationship with God through Christ Jesus.



There have been numerous people in my life that have been good mentors for me when it comes to prayer. Yet, no one left a more indelible mark on me regarding prayer than Harold “Uncle Dud” Cook. “Uncle Dud” played a left-handed Martin guitar in our church. He also played the harmonica and would sing specials. You would rarely find him far away from his guitar. He would bring it out at men’s meetings, workdays, or whenever he could find a good time to pick and grin. However, It was more than the playing, he was looking for a time to worship and praise his Mighty God. That’s not all...he would shout and rejoice in the Lord. As I’m thinking about him now, I can almost hear his familiar voice praising and magnifying the Lord.

“Uncle Dud” was so faithful. He seemed to never miss church for any reason. I’ve heard him call our church, “home.” Not “home church” but “Home.” The reason he called our local church “home” was that he was there more than he was at home. There was a place behind our church in a “pine thicket,” as the old-timers would say. All of us church kids knew it as the grounds where the church adults would go pray, particularly the men. There were seasons in the life of the church where numerous men and women would gather there for prayer. However, there was only one day that “Uncle Dud” would go pray and that was every day, every week, every month of every season, of every year.

It didn’t even matter what the weather was like. As a kid and teenager living in the church parsonage, I would see him there in heat or cold, rain or shine. I countless times would sneak up to the edge of the pine thicket and hear him talking to God. Sometimes he would play his guitar and sing, and on occasion, someone would join him. Alone or with others didn’t seem to matter to him. He was not there for them.

**While we were  
yet sinners He  
loved and gave  
Himself for us,  
forgiving us,  
and washing  
our sins away.**

I found out that life was difficult for him on many fronts, but you never would know it by the way he rejoiced and glowed with a positive attitude.

I pray that you and I will follow “Uncle Dud’s” example daily. Let us not just remember his daily encounters with God. May we regularly have our own experience with our God. What A Friend We Have in Jesus!



## BISHOP STEPHEN AND SHERRY PHILLIPS

*Bishop Phillips serves the CHC as  
the General Superintendent.*

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

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Matthew Turner

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### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



# A TRUE FRIEND

## Stanza:

O WHAT PEACE WE OFTEN FORFEIT,  
O WHAT NEEDLESS PAIN WE BEAR,  
ALL BECAUSE WE DO NOT CARRY  
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER!

Proverbs 18:24 records these words “....and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” We find in the book of John who that friend is. Jesus. He calls us friends in John 15:15, meaning that there is not anything that we cannot talk with Him about. The problem is many times; I find myself trying to work out my issues or wrongs to assure that I am in the correct standings with Him. However, He is not only my Lord; He is my friend that is always there to help me in my times of trouble, whether the troubles are self-made or brought on by others.

Being the youngest of six children, I understand how close a family can be. We would disagree and argue with each other, but when someone outside of the family would try to hurt us, the other siblings would always be there to stand up for each other. Jesus’ words state that He is closer than this to us. All we have to do is call on His name, and rather than judgment, He will bring help, correction, and care. I long have said that church had a revolving door for the first several years as I was trying to serve God. Jesus was always there when I would return and always accepted me back when I reached out to Him.

But there was one issue in my life I dealt with for a very long time. As the verse above says, I dealt with needless pain, loss of peace because I never really took this issue to God. When I was the most broken over this issue in my life, I found out what a true friend Jesus is. I called out to Him, I



REV. SCOTTY AND  
REDENNA POOLE

*Rev. Scotty serves as the World Mission Executive Director of the CHC.*

was candid with Him, and He removed the issue from my life. He gave me the help, correction, and care that I needed. He did not condemn me. He loved me like a brother and showed me The Friend that stays closer than a brother. He is also That Friend to you.

*by Rev. Scotty Poole*



Malichi White – 2021 Missionary Intern



Panama National Board



Church Leaders in Reynosa, Mexico





**JULY 4 - JULY 11, 2021**

**WIND RIVER INDIAN  
RESERVATION**

**WYOMING**



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## Executive Director's Report

**D**uring the last several months of 2021, I have coordinated the travel and accommodations for the International Delegates. A Hospitality Committee was established to help with all the transportation, accommodations, and meals for the International Delegations while in the USA. The committee members are Woody & Vanessa Salter (Chairman), Don & Wendy Del Nero, Redenna Poole, Carley Jo Broyles, and Debbie Chapman.

The International Minister Training Module 3 has been completed. The students from Aruba have now successfully completed the entire program and will be awarded their Certificate of Completion. The Module 3 instructors were Dr. Matthew Turner, Bishop Ronald Wilson, Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick, and me.

The 2021 World Missions Missionary Internship was awarded to Malichi White for Assembly of Praise. I am currently scheduling locations and dates for Edward Cole (2020 Missionary Intern) and Malichi to serve their internship.

Travel has opened back up. In April, Woody Salter and I traveled to South Texas and were able to cross over into Mexico, visiting some of our leaders in Northern Mexico. We also traveled to Panama to visit with the leadership of Panama. As well as Wyoming to meet with the leaders, we are working with to schedule the 2021 SMYLE Trip.

JESUS HAS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND IN MY JOURNEY AND  
I HAVE CORRESPONDED TO THIS FRIENDSHIP BY DONATING  
ME TO HIS WORK DURING THESE 41 YEARS OF FAITH.



Pastor Edimar and congregants at a water baptism in 1989.

## CONVERSION

I was 13 years old, when I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. It went like this: CHC arrived in my city, Fortaleza, on September 7, 1980, settling in close to my parents' house. Being from a Catholic family, but without ever going to a Catholic church, I didn't know anything about God and Jesus Christ, heaven, hell, so I started attending the services at the pastor's house, which were mostly children and, in October 9, a month later, I answered a call at the altar and went to confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I was the first in my parents' home to become an evangelical Christian. When I came home that night and told my Catholic mother, she started to lecture me and say: now you can no longer play soccer, you can no longer watch television, you can no longer go to the beach, you can no longer play with your colleagues, and you can't do this, you can't do that other, it was a tough sermon. I went to sleep thinking about many things. I was a normal 13 year old teenager who enjoyed playing with my classmates. I woke up the next day I went to school and when I got home I left the school books and ran to the pastor's house and the first thing I saw was the pastor's kids playing soccer, I was so happy and I said to myself: my mom do not know nothing, she is not evangelical. I stood firm in the church, I didn't miss a service. I was desperately reading the Bible, first

a new testament I had won, then the complete Bible I had also received as a gift. By the age of 15, with two years of faith, I had already read the New Testament five times and the complete Bible three times. My mom said I was going to be crazy about reading the Bible so much.



The Cordeiro family: Edimar, Gedalva, Priscila, Miqueias – 2005

## INTIMACY WITH CHRIST

I've always been a great friend of Jesus, since my conversion, talking to him has always been part of my life, I don't speak only when I'm in a prayer posture, I don't like that term, I talk to him walking and driving, working, doing anything, when I go to sleep, I am wrapped in the sheet and mentally I am talking until I sleep, this practice comes from my adolescence and I practice until today. I have two children, Priscila, a psychologist and Miqueias, an airplane pilot. Miqueias was born with a serious bile duct problem, with a few days of birth we took him to the doctor because something was not normal, tests were done and the doctors said he would live only two years if he did not have surgery, rare at that time, but did not guarantee that he got over this surgery. He

was two months old when they opened it in half, he still has the scar. His mother, Gedalva, and I prayed that God's will would be done. I said: Jesus, my friend, if you're going to take it now, you shouldn't have given it. Well, it's yours, if you don't want me to take care of it, your will is done. When they went to operate, they



said that if the surgery was successful and he resisted, he would live until 12 years old. We forgot what the doctors said, today Miqueias is 27 years old and has more health than his parents. Jesus is my greatest friend ever.

## CALL TO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY

My spiritual relationship with Jesus was always in a growing process of responsibility, at the age of 15 I was already teaching in the youth class at Sunday School, I had the opportunity to preach in camp services in the squares and on the streets, I attracted a lot of young people to hear the gospel, I gained a lot of friends for Jesus. I won my whole family too, my parents and my brothers. I have always been obedient to my pastors and they have started to put responsibility on me in positions within departments in the church. I was secretary, treasurer, teacher and youth president. At the age of 16 I was consecrated to a missionary worker, at the age of 17 to a licensed preacher. I was my pastor's right-hand man, I did everything in the church. I was also secretary and treasurer for the local church. My pastor had a degenerative disease in the bones and nerves and could not stand for a long time, I was his favorite preacher. Once, the Director of World Missions of the CHC, Rev L.M. Reese came to Fortaleza and my pastor asked him to consecrate me as assistant pastor. L. M. Reese thought I was very young, but after my pastor spoke about me, then he decided to consecrate me. Three years later, I became pastor of the only CHC church in Fortaleza. Two years later, in 1990, at a national church conference in Manaus-AM, I was elected national treasurer on the national committee, and I remained in that position for 9 years until 1997. That year I was elected national superintendent and I still serve today. During my pastoral life I did not stop studying, I completed my studies, I entered college and I graduated in full degree in Sciences of Religion, I did a second college, Bachelor of Theology, I did a master's degree in Missions, and I also received the title "honoris causa" of Doctor of Divinity by the Panamerican Theological Seminary.

## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH – FORTALEZA-BRAZIL.

God's plan for my life was unfolding mainly in my city and state, with only one existing church, we started to start new churches as I prepared leaders. One by one they were open, small churches, but with strong leadership. Today in my state of Ceará we have fifty and one churches established with pastors. Until 2006 the State of Amazonas had the largest number of churches, today the State of Ceará has the highest concentration of CHC churches.

The CHC are present in 12 States of Brazil. We now have over 180 temples built, not included the work of family groups, cells, houses of worship and preaching points, missions that we come to adding about 400. About 100 temples are in two States of Brazil; State of Ceará, where I live, and Amazonas State, where it started the church. We have two rehabilitation centers for drug addicts. One in Fortaleza and another in Boa Vista, Roraima. In Roraima we are the second largest center for drug treatment in the State. Currently the church advances occupying space in the regions of the North, Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and South of the country.

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FORTALEZA – BRAZIL AND THE SKELTONS

Once a year a Conference is held in Fortaleza, always in the month of December. It is a Leadership Conference, where approximately



Frist CH Church in Fortaleza, Brazil.



Pastor Edimar in his church in Fortaleza, Brazil.

400 leaders gather in the capital. They are pastors, presbyteries, evangelists, mission workers, deacons, and various leaders who serve in local churches. For many years the Rev. Hugh Skelton and Allen Skelton have come uninterruptedly attending this conference and with them come other american pastors. Pr. Scotty Poole has a great heart for world missions and has attended this conference for many consecutive years. Every year new workers are consecrated, pastors, presbyteries, evangelists, mission workers and deacons. All these leaders have preparation classes in the CHC headquarter in Fortaleza.

## CHC IN SOUTH AMERICA

In South America we are in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Venezuela, British Guiana, Colombia and Aruba (Caribbean). We already had a mission in Uruguay and Ecuador, today there is no more.

In March 2011 I were nominated for Continental Representative for South America to help the World Mission Director.

As a Continental Representative I have already held two major conferences for South American countries, one in Manaus-Brazil and the other in Aruba. A third was scheduled for early 2020 in Chile, but it was not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

# REMEMBERING REVEREND JAMES MICHAEL SPENCE

1954-2021

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

August 27, 1954 - March 6, 2021

**G**ood people die every day. Yet not all of them affirm for us the goodness in humanity and leadership the way James Michael Spence did. He left a legacy of positive experiences for anyone who took the time to know him.

It was my distinguished privilege to meet Brother Mike Spence several years ago. I was honored to have served as his assistant for the last eight years on the North Georgia District Presbytery. His demeanor was one of profound respect. He was eager to work and willing to do whatever was needed to get the job accomplished.

Mike was a graduate of Emmanuel College. He served as the Hickory Pentecostal Holiness Church pastor, The Mt. Holly Pentecostal Holiness Church pastor, The North Wilkesboro Pentecostal Holiness Church pastor, and The Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church pastor before coming to our denomination. He served our denomination with distinction. He was the Pastor of the Shawsville Congregational Holiness Church in Shawsville, Virginia, and the District Superintendent of the Virginia District.



Mike and Karen Spence

Brother Mike transferred to the North Ga District of the Congregational Holiness Church in 2006, from the Virginia District to pastor The New Hope Worship Center in Danielsville, Georgia. He served on the district Presbytery as First Assistant Superintendent for eight years. After more than thirty-nine years of ministering the word in youth camps, camp meetings, revivals, conferences, seminars, retreats, homecomings, hospitals, prison facilities, radio broadcast, on world mission fields, and more, along with serving in many leadership positions on the local and District levels, in 2013, Brother Mike was elected to the highest rank of the North Georgia District of the Congregational Holiness Church, which is District Superintendent. He served as District Superintendent for almost eight years. Brother Mike entered the ministry at age sixteen and preached the gospel for forty-seven years.

He brought insightful leadership to our District. He set the bar for excellence and improvements to our District and The Union Grove Campground. Mike spearheaded several projects on the campground, making numerous improvements to several of our facilities, enhancing what was a special place to him and all of us.



Mike was known for mentoring others in the ministry he loved; he was the “go-to” person for young ministers to gain the self-confidence needed to do the ministry. He sought to develop the people who worked in our organization because he knew they would be better leaders because of what they learned.

Had he lived to serve another term, Brother Mike expressed his mission for the next four years to stop

doing all the things unimportant to the kingdom and focus on loving, restoring, and disciplining the ministers and ministry teams of the North Georgia District.

One of Mike’s great sermons was “It is what it is, but it doesn’t have to stay that way”. His philosophy was if you do not like the way it is, change it.

The bottom line is he was a great leader. And when you pulled back the curtain of all that entails, you can also see that he was also a good person who cared about others. We can all learn a lot about leadership and humanity by following Mike’s example.

Thank you, Mike, for setting an example we all can strive to emulate. Thank you for your never-ending dedication to our Church and those men and women you have faithfully served.

There is a way to pay tribute to Mike by following his example. Make a difference in someone’s life today, and tomorrow make a difference in the life of someone new. I learned from Mike that it does not require a loud voice, a gavel, or a strong personality to be a leader. It takes a heart of passion and a commitment to challenging work. Do you want to help others? Then help others. Do you want to build something great? Then build something great. He taught me the best way to lead is to delegate, and the best way to influence is to listen.

I will miss my friend until we are reunited on the other side. Indeed, a great man a prince has fallen, but I know where he is, and I look forward to the day when we are together again.

*Written by Rev. Lanier Martin*

**There is a way to pay tribute to Mike by following his example. Make a difference in someone’s life today, and tomorrow make a difference in the life of someone new.**





# CLOSER THAN A BROTHER



by Matthew Turner

**P**roverbs 18:24 states, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” I do not think it is a stretch to say that everyone who may read this edition of The Gospel Messenger has experienced how Christ has stuck closer than a brother in our lives. This is also true in my life. Jesus has been a friend who has cared for me, protected me, held me accountable, and walked with me since I made Him savior of my life at age eleven. While many stories come to mind that point out how Jesus has been a friend, none are more prevalent in my mind than the one that centers around my best dog-friend, Charlie.

Anna Kate and I purchased Charlie for the large sum of \$25 from a pastor friend of ours, and we immediately fell in love with him. Charlie was a Labrador Retriever, and he was a dog that had an amazing amount of energy. It was impossible to make him tired, no matter the amount of exercise. True to his breed, Charlie loved all things water. He loved swimming in the nearby creek, jumping in neighbor’s pools, and chasing the water shooting out of the yard sprinkler. Because of his spunk and energy, we learned to

“baby-proof” our home even before we had a child because Charlie was constantly running through the house and sliding into walls and doors. Although we loved Charlie a great deal, when our first child was born, we knew that we were going to have to re-home Charlie to a place that had plenty of room for him to run and be the free-spirited soul he was.

My wife and I welcomed Elia Kate into our lives in February of 2017, and what a joy she is to us. Just a few weeks after Elia was born, our church took a trip to Chile in South America. I returned from our trip on April 3, 2017; it was a Monday. The next day I took Charlie to meet his new family. It was challenging to say the very least. We had planned on simply giving Charlie away. The main thing we wanted was for him to go to a loving home. I arrived to meet the father of the family taking Charlie, and he asked me how much I was selling Charlie for? I



**THE TURNER FAMILY,  
MATTHEW, ANNA, ELIA,  
AND EDYTH.**

*Dr. Matthew Turner serves as the  
Mission USA Administrator for the  
CHC.*





Mission USA Presents:

# CONTINUING *education* CONFERENCE

## 13-14 AUGUST

Starts at 7PM EST August 13

**BE INSPIRED, ENCOURAGED,  
AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!**

The 2021 Continuing Education Conference is a free event for all CHC pastors, leaders, and members. This event is designed to bring encouragement, resources, and fellowship to those who attend. You don't want to miss this exciting weekend!

**More Information To Come!**



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Hemby**

Conference  
Speaker

Professor @  
Southeastern University  
in Lakeland, FL.



**Conference  
Focus**

From Dr. Hemby's  
latest book.

told him I wasn't selling him; I just simply wanted to give him to a loving family. The man would not be satisfied until he gave me something for him. He wrote a check for \$250.00. I was so surprised and tried not to take it; however, the man was persistent. I took the check, folded it up, and placed it in my wallet. I left and went home.

Early the next day, at 2 AM on Wednesday, April 5, my father called me to tell me my mother passed away. It was unexpected and heartbreaking. Later that day, my family and I went to the funeral home to make all the arrangements, and we picked out a casket that came with a memorial rocking chair made out of the same type of wood

as the casket. The funeral director told my brothers and me that more rocking chairs could be purchased as keepsakes if we wanted to purchase one. We all wanted to buy one, so we asked how much they were? The funeral director told us, \$250.00. I broke down in tears. I realized why that man who took Charlie gave me \$250.00. It was not because I needed that money to buy the rocking chair, but because God was a friend, and He wanted me to know He knew what was going to happen before I did. Like a great friend, Jesus made His presence known to me right in the funeral home and wrapped his arms around me.

Jesus truly is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.



# MEN'S MINISTRY

## Stanza:

HAVE WE TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS?  
IS THERE TROUBLE ANYWHERE?  
WE SHOULD NEVER BE DISCOURAGED;  
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER!

**H**ave we trial and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?" If you answered "yes" to either of the questions above, then you are probably familiar with the cold hard facts of human existence in a sin-cursed world. - Trials, temptations, and trouble.

At first glance, these three words offered little solace to me as I pondered the lyrics penned by the Irish poet and preacher, Joseph Scriven. Until I took a closer look and realized that the letter "T" roughly resembles the Cross. Immediately, I was reminded of that dark afternoon when three wooded crosses dotted the bony features of Golgotha's hillside. There I see all the trials, all the temptations, and all the trouble ever suffered by humankind. As I take a closer look, I see EVERY conceivable reason to be discouraged. I see all the sin, the shame, and sickness that could only ever be redeemed by the innocent blood of the Spotless Lamb of God.

Trials. Temptations. Trouble. Three crosses on a dark, barren hillside synonymous with death and destruction.

I'm so thankful the song doesn't end there! For when I look upon the Cross- when I see the best of Heaven dying for the worst of earth-, I am reminded of the words: "We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer."

My friend, your life may be filled with trials, temptations, and trouble today! I am happy to report to you that you have a friend in Jesus! He knows where you are. He understands your pain. He loves you just as you are. Do not be discouraged! He knows how you feel.

The book of Hebrews reminds us that we have a High Priest who is touched by the feelings of our infirmities- who was tempted just as we are tempted. Yet He persevered to bring hope and healing to you and me! Today, I am thankful that we can take everything to Him in prayer.

Special note from CHC Men's Ministries: Recently, Men's Ministries Executive Director Ronald Cook was elected to serve as pastor of the Douglas Church of God in Douglas, Alabama, thus ending his tenure with the Men's Ministries. We would like to thank Reverend Cook for his faithful oversight of Men's Ministries for the last eight years and wish him success in his new assignment. We are thankful for men like Reverend Cook, whose visions have enabled the CHC to provide quality ministry to the men of our churches and for those who will take up the mantle as we move into the future.

*On behalf of Men's Ministries, Brian Willingham. National Commander of Royal Rangers and Second Assistant Director of Men's Ministries.*



# A FRIEND SO FAITHFUL

## Stanza:

CAN WE FIND A FRIEND SO FAITHFUL  
WHO WILL ALL OUR SORROWS SHARE?  
JESUS KNOWS OUR EVERY WEAKNESS;  
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER!

“Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.”

Someone once observed that a true friend is someone who knows everything about you and still loves you anyway. Perhaps this is the most accurate definition of friendship I have ever heard. Friendship usually comes easily when there are mutually shared benefits as a result of particular relationships. Money, status, and popularity usually attract more friendships than does poverty, obscurity, or loneliness.

But what of TRUE friendship? What of agape love? Can unfailing love and unconditional acceptance actually exist in human relationships? If it does actually exist, can it survive?

Ironically, it is when we are most difficult to befriend that we need friendship the most. Former National Teacher of the Year recipient Guy Doud said it best when he noted: “Obnoxious qualities are really just a cry for help.”

That brings us back to the question: “Can we find a friend so faithful?” Someone who knows all our sorrows, all our mistakes, all our regrets? Someone who loves us faithfully in spite of all of our blemishes? I am so thankful that, while Jesus knows my every weakness, I am still invited to come boldly to the Throne of Grace to “take it to the Lord in prayer.”

As I think about the concept of friendship, I would be remiss to pass by this opportunity to thank each of you who have supported me during my tenure as National Commander of Royal Rangers. Recently, I shared my decision to step down after our upcoming General Conference. What an incredible adventure the last eight years have been! Although this will be my final article in this capacity, I will be forever thankful for the memories I have made! I am confident that our church family will fully support the next National Commander, who will doubtless take our ministry to the future men of the CHC to even greater heights!

by Brian Willingham



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

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

**Commanders Note:** A recent change has been made to the Outpost Leader advancement classes. Ranger Foundations will replace Rangers Basics; and Ranger Mentoring will replace Ranger Essentials. Both courses are available as an online class. For more information, please contact me at 904-763-5024 or via email at chranger13@yahoo.com.

*As always, thanks to each of you who make Royal Rangers ministry possible!  
Your labors are never in vain!*

# PAST AND PRESENT, HE IS MY ROCK

## Stanza:

ARE WE WEAK AND HEAVY LADEN,  
CUMBERED WITH A LOAD OF CARE?  
PRECIOUS SAVIOR, STILL OUR REFUGE--  
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER!



I am thinking back to about 1976, at a time in our lives when we were living in a rented house, and the owners told us that they needed the house, and we only had a few months to move. It came to us that we should build a house on some property my Dad had given us, so we began the process.

While Michael was working, I went to the bank, where we had an account, and asked for the money.

We knew this loan officer; my Dad and Mom had done business with him many times. He told me that we could not build a house on what I was asking, and I told him we could, but he said, "No." My heart was broken, and we were very concerned about what we were going to do.

The only thing I knew to do was PRAY. I went home, and we began to pray about our situation. I'm talking about-face in the carpet, tears in the carpet, and crying out to God for help. We had a baby and nowhere to go. After time spent in prayer, we went back to the same bank, same loan officer, and guess what, he loaned us the money to build our house, and with the help of friends, we were in the house in just a few months.

Now coming up to the present time, in 2020, this year was a very hard year for everyone. The virus, shortages of necessary things, having to wear masks that I couldn't breathe in, staying home, and losing so many to the virus - it was a very difficult year.

On May 8, 2020, we lost our Mom, not to the virus; she had other physical problems. Then on October 26, 2020, I lost Michael, my husband of 47 years, again, not to the virus. Please allow me to say it has been difficult, but God has been my PEACE, and the sweet Holy Ghost has been my COMFORT. It is PRAYER that has helped me through this time and will continue to help me as long as I take my cares and burdens to Him in PRAYER.

If I had only one thing to say in order to encourage anyone, it would be: Psalm 91:2, "I will say of the Lord, He is my REFUGE and my FORTRESS: my GOD; in Him will I TRUST."

*by Wanda Murray*



REV. WANDA MURRAY

*Wanda Murray is the Women's Ministries Executive Director.*



# JESUS, WHAT A WONDERFUL FRIEND

by Tonya Cook

## Stanza:

DO YOUR FRIENDS DESPISE, FORSAKE YOU?  
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER!  
IN HIS ARMS HE'LL TAKE AND SHIELD YOU;  
YOU WILL FIND A SOLACE THERE

**H**ave you ever felt despised or rejected by friends or loved ones? Even looked around and thought that all had forsaken you? Of course, we all have at times, but we have to remember we are not left here to bear any burden that our Savior has not already been through. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 53:3, "He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." Although at times we get downtrodden and feel like the world is crashing around us and no one is there to help bear our burdens or our cares, that's when we need to cast our eyes upward and look toward the hills from which our help comes from. He will then surely hear our cry and take us in His great big arms and give us the love and comfort that we so desperately need and the assurance that He is always there.

Several years ago, the Lord gave me a song in a time when I felt my world was crumbling and let me know that He is a constant friend and companion. He assured me that in my darkest trials that all I had to do was speak His name. There's power in it!

*Sometimes trials come my way, and I don't know what to say but the name of Jesus.  
For I know, He has control, and I know He always knows what's best for me. If I can  
only lean on Him and lean on His word to depend, then Satan he can't have control  
of me. I can boldly stand and say that Jesus is the way. So turn to Him and let him be  
your friend.*

*All I have to do is speak Jesus, Jesus, the name of Jesus. When I don't know what to do,  
I know that He will see me thru. Jesus, what a wonderful friend is He!*

*I fight battles day to say, and I sometimes often say "where are you Jesus?" You seem so  
far away, and I don't know how to pray along my way. But if I can only lean on Him  
and lean on His word to depend, then that will bring Him closer every day. He will  
always be my guide and stand by my side. But best of all, He will always be my friend!*

*\*Tonya Cook*

Just know today that He's a constant friend and companion, and if you feel the whole world is against you, He's promised, and His promises are true, He will never leave or forsake you! Oh, what a beautiful friend we have in Jesus!! Turn to Him today and let Him be the best friend you could ever have.



**TONYA COOK**

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

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# 2021 CAMPMEETING AND YOUTH CAMP SCHEDULES

## North Alabama

Youth Camp June 13-18  
Various Speakers

Campmeeting July 11-16  
July 11 Speaker:  
Rev. Mark Willingham  
July 12-16 Speaker:  
Rev. Gene Luke

## West Carolina

Jr. Youth Camp June 18-21  
Speaker: Rev. Jody Padgett

Sr. Youth Camp June 21-25  
Speaker: Rev. Jacob Randall

Campmeeting July 2-8  
Speakers:  
Dr. Mark Williams  
Bishop Stephen Phillips  
Bishop Ronald Wilson

## Virginia

Junior Youth Camp July 23-24  
Speaker: Rev. Paul Robertson

Campmeeting August 2-5  
Speaker: Rev. Beth Stephens  
Johnson

## North Georgia

Jr. Youth Camp June 13-15  
Speaker: Professor Do Dad  
Sr. Youth Camp June 16-19  
Speaker: Rev. Brandon Goff

Campmeeting July 23-30  
July 23-24 Speaker:  
Rev. Javon Ruff  
July 25 AM Speaker:  
Dr. Matthew Turner  
July 25 PM Speaker:  
Bishop Ronald Wilson  
July 26-27 Speaker:  
Dr. Mark Williams  
July 28-30 Speaker:  
Rev. Beth Stephens-Johnson

## Florida

Jr. Youth Camp June 18-21  
Speaker: Rev. Hayward Clark

Sr. Youth Camp June 22-25  
Speaker: Rev. Roger Luke

Glen St. Mary Campmeeting  
July 18-23  
Speaker: The Blythes and Rita

Odom Campmeeting August 2-6  
Speaker: Rev. B.B. Barwick

## South Alabama

Youth Camp June 13-18  
Speaker: Rev. Jacob Thornton

Campmeeting July 11-15  
Speaker: Rev. Eric Norris

## Central Georgia

Jr. Youth Camp June 14-17  
Speaker: Rev. Tony Evens

Sr. Youth Camp June 21-25  
Speaker: Rev. Caleb Phillips

Campmeeting July 18-22  
July 18-20 Speaker:  
Rev. Tracy Harris  
July 21-22 Speaker:  
Rev. Tommy Bates

## East Carolina

Youth Camp June 27-July 2  
Speaker: Rev. Lance Crews

Campmeeting July 5-9  
July 5-7 Speaker:  
Bishop Ronald Wilson  
July 8-9 Speaker:  
Rev. Stewart Jacobs