

THE GOSPEL

# messenger

VOL 96 NO. 4 | FALL 2021



Bishop Scotty Poole

Elected General Superintendent  
June 10, 2021

Feature Article P. 6-7

***35<sup>th</sup> General Conference***

Celebrating 100 years of CHC Ministry



# 35<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 9-11, 2021, will be three days of Congregational Holiness Church history that no one will soon forget. After years of prayer, planning, and a great deal of hard work, hundreds of CHC members, leaders, and ministers settled on Zebulon, Georgia, at the Christ Chapel Community Church for the 35th General Conference. From the very first moment, the Spirit of God could be physically felt. Throughout the entirety of the Conference, God's Spirit moved in evident ways. The three days of conference included business, powerful preaching, anointed worship, and immeasurable amounts of encouragement given to those who gathered.

This edition of the Gospel Messenger will recap the sights and results of the 35th General Conference for the CHC. Throughout, you will see many pictures from the General Conference taken by Laura Messer of Grace Fellowship CHC. The following articles are from the CHC's newly elected/appointed general officials. These leaders share an introduction of themselves and for the ministry that they now will be leading. As you read each article, I ask that you take a moment and call the author's name out in prayer. I assure you that they need your prayers as they follow the Lord and lead their department. May the Lord richly bless you and the Congregational Holiness Church.

Dr. Matthew Turner  
Editor of the Gospel Messenger







OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

**EDITOR**  
Matthew Turner

**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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**Send subscriptions, change of address to:**  
International Headquarters of the



Congregational Holiness Church, Inc.  
3888 Fayetteville Hwy.  
Griffin, Georgia 30223

**Send all correspondence to:**

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Griffin, Georgia 30223  
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REV. JONATHAN  
FITZPATRICK

*Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick serves  
the CHC as World Mission  
Executive Director.*

# 35<sup>th</sup> GEN CONF



Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick Elected World Missions Exec. Director – June 10, 2021

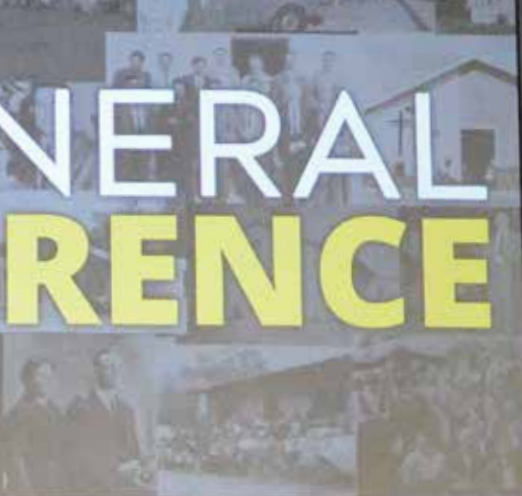
## "ONE MILLION SOULS FOR JESUS"

I would like to begin this inaugural Gospel Messenger article by thanking all of you, the great people of the Congregational Holiness Church, for placing your trust and confidence in Kristie and me by giving us this wonderful opportunity to lead our World Missions Department. There have been many great leaders in the department over the years, and our prayer and goal is to “run the race” and do all we can to continue the extraordinary legacy.

As you may know, there are many constant needs on the field. If you can imagine it, there is likely a need for it somewhere: automobiles, busses, Christian literature in the native languages, wells dug for clean drinking water, roofs for church buildings, entire church buildings, food, clothing, and the list goes on. I think every previous World Missions Director would agree with what Bishop Scotty Poole recently shared with me that the most challenging part of this position is having to say no. As you can imagine, it is very difficult when you have to say no to legitimate needs on the

mission field. Along with that, it is also difficult to have to decide which of these needs should be met at the present moment and which ones have to be put on hold because of funding. That is why your prayers and financial support are needed now more than ever. I can't do this alone. Obviously, I will need God to direct me, but I also need you. Together we can do this! Together we can meet more needs, reach more and more families for Jesus, and together, we will be able to say “YES!” more often to the critical needs on the field.

At the General Conference, I told you that my vision was simply to “Get More Flags.” More flags represent more countries coming to know Jesus and more souls for the kingdom! With that said, I believe the greatest need on the mission field is not only a physical need but a spiritual one. People saying yes to Jesus will always trump being able to say yes to a particular physical need because people need Jesus more than anything and more than ever before. So, I have this goal. It's a crazy big goal that is totally out of



## JONATHAN FITZPATRICK

WORLD MISSIONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2021 - 2025



reach without God. I want to see 1 million people come to Christ! Yes, 1 million souls for the kingdom. If you are one who likes a catchphrase, then let's call it "One 'M' for Him." I know there is at least a visionary or two out there reading this who will agree that if your vision and goal is something you can do in your own strength and with your own resources, it's not big enough because you really don't need God in the first place. If together we win 1 million for Jesus, we will no doubt get more flags.

Since the General Conference, I have been praying, brainstorming, and asking others for input as to what this will look like "on paper" and how to successfully raise the necessary funds needed to do all of this. As always, you will have an opportunity to give during the annual Feast of the Ingathering Offering in November, but I do have a couple of ideas on the horizon that I will be discussing

with the General Executive Board at their next meeting. I would like you to help me pray that funds will come from unexpected places; for example, business owners outside of the church willing to sow into missions or a particular missions project. If you happen to know any, please feel free to put me in contact with them.

I'm going to close this article by saying something that you will hear a lot from me. We are better together.

Together we will make a difference. Together, let's get more flags!

*Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick*



# CONTINUE



Bishop Scotty and Redenna Poole. Bishop Poole was elected General Superintendent of the CHC on June 10, 2021.



REV. SCOTTY POOLE

Bishop Scotty Poole serves as the General Superintendent of the CHC.

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 3:13-14*

**D**o you remember what it was like before the term COVID-19 or pandemic came into our everyday vocabulary? In January and February of 2020, I tried to determine best how I would get to all the places I needed to go. It appeared there was not enough time to do everything. Then on March 9th, I returned from a visit to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, and in less than a week, everyday life as we knew it came to a halt. We began to be confronted with COVID-19 and how to live life during this unusual, trying, and sometimes deadly pandemic. Suddenly there was enough time to do anything needed, but now time was no longer the constraint; the pandemic was. For the past year and a half, everything done had some thought of how the pandemic would affect the decision in the decision-making process.

In the midst of all this, in June of this year, the Congregational Holiness Church came together for our 35th General Conference to select our leaders and celebrate our 100th year as a denomination. I am deeply humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as the General Superintendent

for this great denomination for the next four years. Redenna and I appreciate your confidence in us to lead. The question remains - What now? What do we do? Where do we go? How do we get there? We are coming off one of the most trying years known to man. It also was one of the most trying

years for the CHC. In the first 99 years, we had never lost a presiding General Superintendent to death, and suddenly we lost two - Bishop Charles Hanson to COVID and Bishop Wayne Hicks to heart failure, in a matter of five months. It does leave a question of - what now?

What we must do is continue. We will never forget the people that have gone before us as we continue the march toward the mark. And continue, we must. If the world ever needed the church to make its mark on the world, it is today. As a church, we must understand that, as in Jude 3, we must contend for the faith once delivered. This means we will never compromise on God's word. No matter what society has to say about God's word, we stay faithful to the truth of His word. But to continue, we must understand how to minister

**"It is time the church sets the direction of the USA and not the USA setting the direction of the church."**

God's word in an ever-changing world. As Christians, it rests upon us to know who we are ministering to and understand the best way to get the gospel to them. To continue means some things will remain the same - faithful and steadfast. God's word and our faith toward God will never change. To continue means some things will change - that's the world around us. When we understand these two dynamics, we can effectively be the church.

Our world and nation need the correct direction. It is time the church sets the direction of the USA and not the USA setting the direction of the church. To do this, we must continue. Bishop Hanson and Bishop Hicks would both be telling us to continue and press toward the mark. In difficult situations, the church should take the lead and not be led. It is not time to circle the wagons and wait for deliverance, but it is also not time to throw all we know away to better reach the people. God's word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same gospel that changed us will change this world today. We just need those willing to continue the march and be the ones to step out and lead our society in the right direction.

The first step is Prayer. On July 23rd, I was privileged to be a part of the Prayer at the Heart six-hour prayer event. As we step up to pray as Nehemiah did for our nation, church, and ourselves, then we can watch God move as He did on Nehemiah's and Israel's behalf. Let's continue with Prayer and affect change through the Holy Spirit in our nation and worldwide.

Redenna and I are thankful for the opportunity you all have afforded us to serve in this position. We are here to serve you all; however, we can. As we walk together with you, we know that there will be nothing impossible if we walk with God. As we continue to press toward the mark, we know our best days are yet to come. We are honored and humbled to serve!

## STATEMENT FOR PRAYER AT THE HEART ARTICLE

Attending and participating in the Prayer at the Heart service was an honor and a blessing. Thousands of men, women, and children gathered in the geographic center of the USA to spend 6 hours in prayer and worship of God. There were prayers for repentance, forgiveness, and healing made for our nation, church, and individuals. I desire to keep this going in our state and counties in Georgia. We were not a part of a prayer service; we have become a part of a prayer movement. Hopefully, the Church Universal will join in this movement and direct our nation in the years to come.

## Executive Director's Report

In June, we hosted 60-70 International and Hispanic Conference delegates for the General Conference. We provided housing, meals, and transportation for these delegates days before and during the conference. COVID testing was provided for those returning to their homes from the conference as needed. The World Missions Hospitality team did a fantastic job hosting these men and women while in Georgia for the conference. A very special thanks go out to all the Hospitality team members.

In July, visits to camp meetings, youth camps, and visiting sister denomination's camp meetings were made. Also, preparations were made to transition World Missions responsibilities to the new World Missions Executive Director, Jonathan Fitzpatrick. Congratulations to Jonathan and Kristie on their new assignment.

Redenna and I would like to thank everyone for the support and trust you all gave us to serve as World Mission Director. We could not have done this without each one of you.



Left: SMYLE group enjoys lunch and sightseeing after ministry labor.



Below: VBS kids with project presented to the church.









# MOVING FORWARD



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

Serving the Lord and the Congregational Holiness Church has brought me the greatest joy. I get up every day excited to go to work and see what God has in store for me and the department I lead. Over the last three years, as I have served in the Mission USA department, I have seen God's hand crisscross the United States in communities where we have long had a presence and in brand new territories as we have established new works. In addition, dozens of ministers have obtained a license with the CHC, and countless students have had an encounter with Christ at camps around the nation. Simply put, God has been good to the CHC!

I came to know Christ as Savior at eleven years of age. I grew up attending a CH church in Jacksonville, Alabama, with Charles Graham as pastor. "Little buddy" was the nickname Pastor Graham gave me, and I still remember to this day seeing the gifts of the Spirit move and operate in our little church. My grandmother's efforts instilled in me a desire to attend church and be faithful in my attendance. She was a Sunday School teacher at the Jacksonville CH church. I can vividly remember her diligent study on Friday and Saturday nights as she would read her lesson. If there were a statement she wanted to point out, she would underline the sentence. If there were an assertion that she was passionate about, she would underline that statement three times. I suppose this is why I started marking and making notes in my Bible. Still to this day, I underline, highlight, and write in my Bible because that is what my grandmother did. I think back on those early influencers in my walk with Christ, like my grandmother, and it is self-evident to see how God used them to help mold me into who I am today. I am so thankful and incredibly blessed to have had men and women throughout my life who were willing to pour into me to help me become a follower of Christ. In so many ways, they helped me to continue moving forward.

**"He has already been in our future, made crooked places straight (Is. 45:2), and is now going to lead us as we move forward."**

While moving forward can sometimes be somewhat frightening, there is great encouragement and comfort to be found in Scripture about moving forward. Genesis twelve shares the remarkable interaction between Abram and the Lord. The Lord speaks to Abram and says:

*Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

What a Word from the Lord! What would you have thought? What would you have done? Whatever our initial reaction, I hope that most if not all of us would have had the courage to obey the Lord. Two phrases stand out to me in what God told Abram. 1) *To a land I will show you* 2) *I will bless you*. First, God challenged Abram to move forward into a place he had never been before.

God challenged him to move away from the comfort of the known land into a place of land unknown. However, the land was only unknown to Abram, not God. Beloved as we move forward into these next four years, it is unknown to us what will occur and what might come our way. However, it is not unknown to the Lord. For the Lord said, I will show you. The implication is God has already been there and is now going to lead Abram to that place He has been. God is no different today; **He has already been in our future, made crooked places straight (Is. 45:2), and is now going to lead us as we move forward.** Then the Lord tells Abram that as you move forward, as you enter the land, I will bless you. There are great blessings in store for you, for me, for Mission USA, and the CHC as we move forward. God has not changed, and what He did for Abram, He will also do for us as we obey and keep moving forward.

*by Matthew Turner*





*Rev. Brian Willingham was elected Men's Ministry Executive Director on June 11, 2021.*

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

**B**y the time you read these words, our centennial celebration and 35th General Conference will already be fading in the rearview mirror. It's difficult to comprehend that the culmination of one hundred years of kingdom service can arrive and pass by so quickly.

As we begin our second century of outreach, I can't help but wonder what the future holds for us. Will we continue to burn as a shining example of Christian unity and doctrinal purity? Or will we become complacent? – satisfied with the storied history we have already attained. If we truly believe in our mission, then I am certain we will conclude that this is no time to become slack in our efforts to reach the world with salvation's plan. Rather, I pray that we will press

**"I pray that we will press into the future with a burning passion for the Gospel message that we have thus far propagated faithfully."**

into the future with a burning passion for the Gospel message that we have thus far propagated faithfully.

I can trace my family's involvement with the Congregational Holiness Church at least as far back as 1938. Since that time, this wonderful denomination has been an integral part of family life on both my paternal and maternal sides of the family. For this reason, the opportunity to serve our church is extremely meaningful to me. This is my heritage! This is my church!

In this article, I would like to briefly introduce myself as your new Executive Director of Men's Ministries. I am honored by the chance to serve you! Although I have met hundreds of people across the length and breadth of our denomination, I eagerly anticipate making more CHC friendships over the next four years.

My wife Rebecca and I make our home in Glen St. Mary, Florida, where we attend the Sanderson Congregational Holiness Church. Both of us grew up as preachers kids in the home of CHC pastors. We were married in 2008 and have two children- Zachary and Allyson.

Before being elected to serve Men's Ministries, I served eight years as National Commander of Royal Rangers for our denomination. It was during this time that I was able to establish wonderful relationships with Royal Rangers leaders across a variety of Pentecostal denominations. Royal Rangers has become—and will continue to be near and dear to my heart. I am thankful that my new assignment will allow me continued influence over our Royal Ranger's ministry.

Prior to general-level leadership, I served in a variety of ways, including district Christian Education department committee member in the North Alabama district,



itinerant evangelism, and teaching. Since being called into the ministry at age fifteen, my heart's cry has been for God to use my life whenever and wherever He chooses.

I look forward to the next four years of Men's Ministries. Within a few weeks, I will be introducing your new Men's Ministry General Board. The men stepping up to serve are Godly men who each have a passion for Kingdom work- and there is much work to do!

I am reminded of the words of Psalm 133: "How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Together, we can do great things for God if we only have the will to do so! So I challenge each of our men to join me on this journey! Let's make a difference for Jesus Christ!

*Rev. Brian Willingham*



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

*Brian is the Men's Ministry  
Executive Director for the  
Congregational Holiness Church.*



# BEGINNING NEW

**A**s I begin this article, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the past four years as your International Executive Director of Women's Ministries. In addition, I very much appreciate the confidence the General Conference had in me, as I was recently re-elected to this position in the 2021 Conference.

For those of you who may not know me well, I'd like to tell you a few things about myself and how the Lord has helped me and led me. My name is Wanda Murray, and in 2018 I retired from my position as Training Coordinator for Family Savings Credit Union in Gadsden, Alabama, in order to take care of my husband, who was disabled. My husband, Michael, who has passed now, and I have two sons, Robert Murray, his wife Cecilia, and Eric Murray. We also have three grandsons: Andrew Murray, Maxwell Murray, and Gage Murray. We are a close family and enjoy being together when possible.

Since the age of 20 years old, I have tried to live a Christian life, but as the years have passed since that time, my love for God and relationship with Him

has grown tremendously. He has answered prayers for my family and me; He has saved members of my family, and His blessings have been abundant.

When I was first elected as the International Executive Director of Women's Ministries in 2017, I had put out a fleece before the Lord, which I very seldom do, but I had to know that this was God's will for me. He answered that fleece, and I let my name run. This year at the General Conference, I did not feel that the Lord had released me from this leadership role, so I continued as I felt God would have me. I have a goal to encourage every Lady in the CHC: young, middle-aged, and mature; to use the talents, callings, and gifts that God has given them. I also have a vision to see ladies use what God has given them and see ladies saved, as declared in the great commission given to us by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. My prayer and my desire is for your prayers and support during the next four years that my board and I will be directed by God and will fulfill His purpose.

*Rev. Wanda Murray*

*Rev. Wanda Murray was elected Women's Ministry Executive Director on June 11, 2021.*





**REV. WANDA MURRAY**  
*Rev. Wanda Murray serves the  
 CHC as the Women's Ministry  
 Executive Director.*





*The Poole Family*



## SIS. REDENNA POOLE

*Sis. Redenna Poole is the wife of Bishop Scotty Poole. Sis. Poole serves the CHC as the Minister's Spouse Ministry Director*

# IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

**T**his picture makes me smile... a lot! What is evident is that the wind is blowing. What is not as evident is that it is blowing tremendously hard, and it's also raining, those hard, stinging drops that only a summer rain at the beach can do.

The folks in this picture tried so hard to get those perfect photos, but what we got was real life. I look like a tornado has plowed through my hair (I'm the first woman on the left), and I am not sure what our grandson Tucker is doing with his hands in the air – maybe he is feeling the rain? Or perhaps he is praying that this picture-taking escapade is finally coming to an end?

Have you ever experienced one of these moments? Moments where that perfect picture in our mind of what it should look like looks very different from what is actually happening before us? I imagine that Mary, the mother of Jesus, may have had one of those moments as she imagined how the birth of the King of Kings would be. Surely for the King, there would only be the best of everything. And then, she finds herself in a stable, without even a bed. This scenario may have looked very different from what she had dreamed about.

Those folks with me in the picture? That's my family – I think everyone knows Bishop Scotty in the white shirt, and in the purple dress is our oldest daughter Whitney and her husband Rhett. The two little boys, Bryce and



Tucker, belong to them. Our youngest daughter Hannah and her husband Ben are the next couple in the photograph. We are a ministry family, active in two of our CHC churches in the North Georgia District.

I believe that I was called to be a pastor's wife, and I have loved working in that role since 1994 as Scotty answered the call into pastoral ministry. Early on in my pastor's wife role I had visions of hosting elegant lunches for our guests, where all the food was perfect, and the tablescape was all hand-made by me. Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen, and I could tell you some stories that would keep you laughing about my mishaps in the kitchen. But, in spite of my shortcomings, ministry still occurred around my table.

I served the North Georgia district as the minister's wives director for a season, and I think that is when I fell in love with serving the spouses of ministers. It is a role that there is no formal training for, but one that is so important in the ministry of the local church. This is the person that ministers to the minister, and it's vital. Dear minister's wife/husband -- your ministry matters!

For the next four years, Lord willing, I want to work with the minister's spouse directors at the district level to plan times of fellowship and prayer, times of teaching and training, and provide ways to connect with those in the same role of minister's spouse so that we can glean from and lean on each other. In my mind's eye, I see perfectly planned and flawlessly executed moments of ministry. But in reality, what may occur are those imperfectly perfect moments in which we come together to live, to laugh, to learn, to pray and to grow as the CHC family. I look forward to serving and working with you!

*Sis. Redenna Poole*





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