



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

BY BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR.

Grace and peace! Greetings in the name of the Lord,

A review of the life of Paul reveals much for our encouragement and inspiration. In fact, notable in the synopsis of the Apostle's life is that he was a man who genuinely loved Christ and lived as His "bondservant." However, the record further reveals that there were those, and particularly the religious minded, who did not treat him very nicely. In fact, they criticized him and sought to discredit him in any and every way that they could. However, despite all the rantings and rancor against him, Paul knew where to find the comfort he needed, and ran to the God of all comfort for it. (This is reflected in his second epistle to the Corinthians, where he begins his letter with thoughts of God's comfort.)

One of the most meaningful things about the truth of God's comfort is that it is available to us at all times. God is always there to comfort us in our varied times of distress, even at those times when our expectation of comfort is from someone else. "Who comforts us in all our affliction" (2 Corinthians 1:4).

The word for "comfort" is parakaleo, meaning to come alongside; to be called alongside; to come alongside in our times of need to help us get through the difficult times. The beautiful thing about this meaning is that it is in the present tense as well as the active voice. Thus, Paul gives testimony to the fact that the God of all comfort was always near him comforting him in times of need. The active voice means that this is God's choice to do so. What a glorious revelation of truth, to know that Christ lives in us to always be there to comfort us in all our situations. Regardless of whatever it is we face in life; Paul's testimony should ignite hope within us that the Lord's comfort is with us at all times.

My friend, be comforted in the Lord, knowing that it is His great pleasure to comfort you.



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IT TAKES A VILLAGE

BY MIN. DERRICK MOORE

Undoubtedly, history reflects that the Black church is the single, most important institution in our community. Many of the freedoms we currently enjoy are as a result of revolutionary actions initiated by the Black church. Preachers/Pastors often times risked life and limbs in the name of social justice and the push for overall equality. The Church was the safe space that tended to the holistic needs of the community. Not only did it feed and clothe, but it educated and empowered the community to strive for better. The advantageous aspect of the black Church was that it was one of the very few institutions that did not need government monies to operate. It was self-contained. In other words, the Church and the community took care of each other.

As we analyze the state of affairs in our communities, there is a glaring breakdown of the family structure. Strategically placed vices (drugs, alcohol, prostitution, gambling, etc.) coupled with systemic issues such as substandard education, recidivous imprisonment and chronic unemployment have contributed to the reduction of two parent homes to no parent homes. Many of our children are raising themselves. The family template has been replaced with gangs. "Big mama/Nana" has become weary. Everyone is overwhelmed. But I submit to you that this storm is the perfect climate for the Church to once again be that beacon of light.

During my years of volunteering with civic organizations such as 100 Black Men of Baltimore, National Urban League Leadership Academy and the NAACP, I have concluded that the Church is not convenient but necessary. Programs such as drug and alcohol recovery, marriage enrichment and youth mentorship are means by which families can be restored. Training and partnerships with organizations specializing in critical areas, such as ex-convict reacclimation and job placement is key. But I submit to you that the Church's greatest area of opportunity is availability. Ask yourself, am I willing to sacrifice for the greater good? Am I willingly giving of the 3 T's (treasure, talent and time)? Am I modeling what I desire to see in others? As the Ecclesia, we must be proactive. Let us long for the days when folks not only get saved, but entire families are restored. The Church Triumphant must move forward, but no family can be left behind as we sojourn.



"And such confidence have we through Christ to God-ward...our sufficiency is from God"

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4





PRAYER SERIES - FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

BY EVANG. KAY N. HARDING

Jesus said "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint..." (Luke 18:1). In this prayer series, we will focus our attention on praying for ourselves and members of our family. As we take this journey, let's consider the following scriptures to help us focus our prayers:

An Individual Prayer

Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Lord, help me to focus on you - to put you first. You promised in your Word that if I delight myself in you, you will give me the desires of my heart. Lord, help us to not make decisions based on my insecurities and emotions, but help me to lean not to my own understanding, but trust that you will direct my path.

A Couple's Prayer

Amos 3:3 - Can two walk together, except they be agreed. See, also Philippians 2:3-5. Discover your love language - [5 Love Languages](#)

Lord, I pray for spiritual unity, wholeness, compassion, understanding, and love for my spouse. Let us walk together in unity lead by your Holy Spirit, so that we may communicate in a loving manner. Help us to communicate in a language that we understand. Lord, let us not be in conflict but give us peace in our relationship and home.

A Parents Prayer For Their Child

Proverbs 22:6 - Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

Proverbs 30:17 - The eye that mocks a father and despises a mother's instructions will be plucked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by vultures.

Lord, you have entrusted me with a child. Please help me to teach this child about your Word in a simplistic fashion. Lord, help me to daily demonstrate my faith and love for you in good and bad times. I also pray that this child does not become rebellious.

Next month, we'll focus on our journey through the Head to Toe Prayer Series.



"Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long...."

EXODUS 20:12





SOCIAL JUSTICE - EMPOWERING THE VOTE

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN & SIS. RACHEL MANN

In the last year, we learned how our votes can have serious consequences. We learned that there are many who would rather take away people’s access to the polls than increase access to vaccines. We even witnessed how our vote can be a matter of life and death for marginalized groups in our country.

This time last year, the death toll was low, but fastly rising; especially among people of color. The world was turned upside down. While many struggled with trying to work and learn virtually, others dealt with a new fear of having to go into work daily because they were labeled “essential,” but ironically not essential enough for proper protection to handle the masses. Unemployment and evictions spiked. Churches and other non-profits shuttered. Then... George Floyd was killed, and we saw what many already knew--that the disease of racism has been with us long before COVID-19.

Fast forward to today, and we are in a different place. The installation of new leadership in our government, from the local level to the national level, has brought a change in strategy. More than 100 million Americans are now vaccinated against COVID-19, with a goal of 200 million within our reach and the hope of a “normal” July becoming more and more of a reality. Also, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was passed, a historic federal bill that brings much-needed relief to families, the elderly, the disabled, small businesses, and non-profits. To learn more, visit [ARP](#) and the resources it provides communities.



“...And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

GALATIANS 6:9



SUNDAY SERVICES 10AM
RACISM AND COVID 19 ARE BOTH VIRUSES
SPREAD LOVE INSTEAD



SOCIAL JUSTICE - REIMAGINING MINISTRY

BY EVANG. KENDRA BROWN & SIS. RACHEL MANN

As people of God, we now have the opportunity to apply for grants to support the ministry and recharge our social outreach programs. This means reimagining our food banks and clothing drives, reinvesting in resources for community services, and implementing innovative ideas that meet people where they are. This new access to resources was secured because we exercised our right to vote in overwhelming numbers, electing leaders like Senator (Pastor) Raphael Warnock who stand for working people and fight for our interests and who also cast one of the deciding votes in the U.S. Senate for the American Rescue Plan. Our vote can bring change, but we must protect it.

The right to vote will continually be under attack, as it is even now in the state of Georgia. But just as God gives us the freedom to choose, that same right is essential to a functioning democracy. When protected, the voice of the people are heard and the needs of the people are met. When improperly applied, our vote can also bring avoidable challenges. Nevertheless, as people of God, we know that no matter what happens in the government, our God is sovereign and the government shall forever be on His shoulders. Galatians 6:7-10 reminds us to not become weary in well-doing. We shall accept what God allows in our government and in our very own lives and continue to walk, run, vote, speak, advocate, stand and march in faith and in holiness for the betterment of our community and the building of God's kingdom. We are the light and this is our charge.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:7-10)."



"As we have
therefore
opportunity, let
us do good unto
all men..."

GALATIANS 6:10





GO FROM BROKE TO RETIRED IN 15 YEARS

BY EVANG. KAY N. HARDING

Imagine that you are 55 years old, your monthly take home pay is \$2,324, and you are relying on social security for your entire retirement income. If this is true, you should be very worried. At retirement, you may only receive \$1,500 a month in social security benefits. Consider how you will pay for rent/mortgage, medical insurance, medical expenses, food, car/car maintenance, and other expenses to maintain your current quality of life.

Whether you are in your 20s or 50s, it's never too late to create a roadmap for your financial future. Financial stability doesn't just happen, you have to create a plan. If you are employed, I recommend that you first contact your human resource office to find out what retirement benefits are available through your employer (e.g. 401k, 401b, Deferred Compensation, ROTH IRA, or other retirement benefits). Your employer may match your contributions, which means that your employer may give you "free money" if you enroll in a retirement benefit plan. Please do not miss out on "free money." You can contribute up to \$19,500 to your Employee 401k program with an additional \$6,500 catch-up contribution allowed for individuals turning 50 or older. More importantly, if you save through a retirement vehicle, through your employer, your savings are pre-taxed, which lessens your taxable income. Additionally, enrolling into a retirement plan through your employer, won't significantly reduce your take-home pay. In order to go from where you are now and be able to retire in 15 years you will need to have a plan, a financial planner or coach to help you along the way. What is most important is that you recognize that this is possible for you.

If you are retired and on a fixed-income and lack access to workplace retirement savings plan, you can still increase your financial wealth. I recommend that you solicit the advice from a reputable financial advisor and/or consider attending a financial workshop sponsored by non-profit organizations like [Cash Campaign of Maryland](#). Further, I recommend that we create and stick to a budget, which includes tithes/offering, create a strategy to get out of debt, pay all bills on-time, create a diverse financial portfolio, and savings. One of the biggest misconceptions that I've heard from individuals is that they cannot afford to save. But, I can guarantee you that you cannot afford to not save.

The Bible discusses all topics, even our finances. Proverbs 13.22 says, "[a] good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children..." If we diligently search and obey the scriptures, we will be blessed.

If you are serious about improving your financial trajectory feel free to contact Kay N. Harding, Esq., at hardingk03@gmail.com to direct you to additional resources and confidentially discuss your financial goals.



CREATING A BUDGET

LUKE 14:28-30

GETTING OUT OF DEBT & STAYING OUT OF DEBT

PROV. 22:7

CREATING A DIVERSE FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO

ECCLESIASTES 11:2

WISDOM TO SAVE

PROV 21:20





HOW TO BE ACTIVE IN A SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE

BY NICOLE LAW

With the sun coming out and the flowers blossoming, it is the perfect time to find new ways to be active. Unfortunately, many of our jobs and lifestyle habits are sedentary, which can make active living harder to achieve. Here are some ways to get and stay active.

Walking

Walking is a great and quick way to stay active even when completing a sedentary commitment. If you are working from home or in the office, taking the time to stand up, stretch, and walk will help to combat sedentary characteristics such as back pain, fatigue, and bad posture. Walking while talking on the phone is an option to ensure you get your steps in for the day! Taking a stroll outside by yourself or with others will help to increase activity, calm stress, shift perspective, and increase time spent with family and friends.

Standing and Stretching

Simply getting up from your chair is a good way to become active during a sedentary commitment. Standing and stretching can help to loosen and engage tight muscles that aren't typically used when sitting. Using a standing desk is also a great way to discourage sitting for too long.

Use simple stretches to engage your unused muscles. These stretches can include neck stretches, leg raises, and shoulder raises. Placing a weight by your desk/workspace can also increase the amount and types of possible stretches to try.

Try An After Work Activity

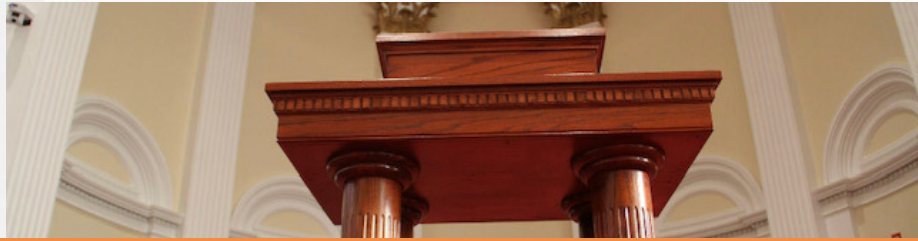
After work is a great time to practice physical/active activities. If you couldn't go on that walk during working hours, taking an evening stroll alone or with others will help to keep you on track and can increase time spent with family and friends. Playing sports such as tennis or softball also increases social engagement and physical activity so find a partner or partners and get active!



"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me..."

PHILLIPIANS 4:13





COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT - TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE, INC. (T.E.A.M)

BY SHARON LAW

“We Have the Power to Impact Our Future, and We’re Doing Something About It.”

T.E.A.M. is a non-profit behavioral health provider serving families in the cities of Baltimore, Hagerstown, Prince George’s County and Delaware. The mission of this organization is to inspire, empower, and work with communities to alleviate poverty through education, mental, and physical wellness services.

In May 2009, T.E.A.M. was formed to provide a unique approach to the touchy topic of mental/behavioral health treatment. The friendly engaging staff members treat each client or member as individuals, focusing on their personal interests and strengths before determining the areas that need improvement.

“Recreation and play are important to us. We aim to get our clients into new environments that encourage social skills, positive interactions, and healthy lifestyle choices!”

T.E.A.M.’s core standard is to instruct families on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The staff works with families as a village, reinforcing mental health education, ethics, values, and good moral decision making to transform negative destructive behavior into positive conduct at home, school, and within the community. This formula and support-in-place allow for people to become positive contributing members of their community while providing families with resources and alternatives that support a nurturing, safe, and healthy environment.

The engine that drives T.E.A.M. is structured around the idea that wellness can be achieved through education, opportunity, community support, and healthy lifestyle choices. T.E.A.M. has set large but obtainable goals to provide the best possible opportunities for their clients.

The past year has proven to be quite challenging. Ariel Adams, Executive Director of T.E.A.M. Baltimore said, “the pandemic has stretched resources and funding, outsourcing T.E.A.M.’s work while meeting a growing need for services”. The capacity to empower individuals through this unprecedented time continues each day with case management, mental health support, intake, and referrals, through teleservices and virtual meetings.

“We are still here persevering. We are still here moving on. We are still here, reorganizing and revamping the way we provide service with excellence and no disruption whatsoever.”

For more information on T.E.A.M. or to donate, visit www.teamforall.org or check them out on Facebook or Instagram.



**“Have it in
your heart to
serve the
people...”**

DARLENE ROBINSON (T.E.A.M.)





CHILDREN'S CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

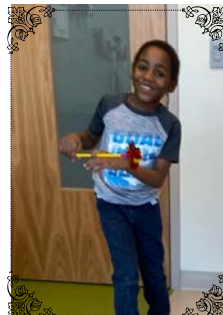
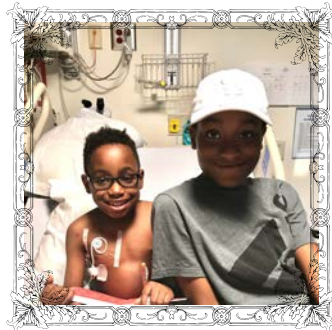
BY SIS. LANETTE HENDERSON



Chris and Nick are 12-year-old boys who love the Lord and attend Children's Church faithfully. They are fraternal twins who live in Alaska and are the best of buds. They like hanging out with each other...sometimes. One twin will do something to the other twin just to aggravate him [all in love].

The young men like to play video games, play in the snow, and attend Children's church. Nick was born with Sickle Cell Anemia and has endured many medical challenges. Our family relocated to Atlanta, Georgia so Nick might have a Bone Marrow Transplant. After being there for 5 years Nick received his Bone Marrow Transplant on May 22, 2019. His donor was his brother Chris who was a 100% match. Now through Gods healing power Nick is healed of Sickle Cell Anemia and is able to live a normal life. Nick is a walking miracle and has returned home to Alaska. Praise The Lord!

We love being a part of Carter Memorial Church of Baltimore and thank Bishop Pierce and all the faithful members for teaching us about Jesus and the Bible.



YOUTH PASTOR Elder Devin Roberts



CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sis. Lanette Henderson



YWE COORDINATOR Sis. Cherise Roberts





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BY SIS. VERONICA DORSEY

"My Son keep your fathers command and do no forsake your mothers teaching (Proverbs 6:20)."

The Lord ordained family, and it is important to remain connected to family while serving the Lord faithfully. Parents who lead by example in serving the Lord and being committed to service often lead their children in the same direction.

The McEachern family has been a long staple in Carter Memorial Church of God in Christ. Deacon Rayford F. McEachern, along with his wife Genell, relocated to the Baltimore area from a small town - Marietta, North Carolina (Robeson County). The McEacherns heard the street ministry of the late Elder James R. Carter and first lady Catherine Carter which led them to become members of Carter's Temple Church of God in Christ (COGIC), now Carter Memorial COGIC. The McEacherns were proud parents of four children: Sandra, Stephanie, Rayford Jr. and Carlos. All born during their membership in Carter's Temple COGIC. Rayford Sr. sang in quartets, was Vice Chairman of the Deacon Board, and Vice Chairman of the Trustee Board. Mother Genell McEachern was an usher, Youth Department choir leader, served faithfully as a church mother, and would join other mothers in cooking meals and cleaning the church. Mother McEachern would visit the sick and did street ministry winning souls for Christ.

Each of the McEachern siblings have been an intricate part of Carter Memorial COGIC as a family and individually. Stephanie is part of Carter Memorial's Women's Ministry, Rayford Jr. serves as a Trustee at Carter Memorial COGIC, Carlos is a Minister of Music at a local Baltimore Ministry, and Sandra is a vocalist. The McEachern's are blessed to also have their children active in ministry as Youth Pastor, musicians, Evangelists, and singers.

The McEacherns would like to leave a legacy for their children and grandchildren to be faithful to the Lord, their family, and ministry. Mother McEachern told her children not to worry the Pastor, be committed to what the Lord assigns to their hands, and often quoted, "People go by what you do. For some, you will be the only bible people read. Always represent the Lord with your life and lifestyle."



"You will be the only Bible people read..."

MOTHER GENELL MCEACHERN





THE CARTER FAMILY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN





THE CARTER FAMILY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN





APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS



BISHOP'S PRAYER CALL

Join Bishop Carl Pierce, Sr., for a refreshing start to your day with prayer.

WHEN: Every Monday

TIME: 6:00 am EST

DIAL: (717) 401-9985 Access Code: 5905#

WEEKDAY SERVICES



Join the Carter Memorial Church family in the Virtual Living Room for Worship and the Word every Sunday at 10:00 am EST.

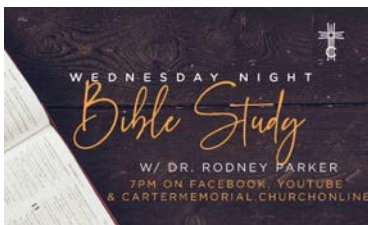
www.Facebook.com/CMCbaltimore
or www.cartermemorial.com



The time to unite in prayer is now. Join us in bombarding Heaven every Monday at 7:00 pm and Wednesday at 12:00 pm EST.

DIAL: (712) 432-0075

PIN: #737082



Join us for mid-week Bible study every Wednesday at 7:00 pm EST.

www.Facebook.com/CMCbaltimore
or www.Cartermemorial.com

FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS

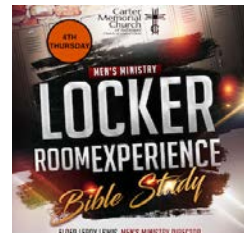


For an engaging discussion in the Word of God, join our Sunday school on "Saturday" at 6:00 pm EST.

SS Registration



"Women's Fireside Chat," a time for the Women's Ministry to connect every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



"Men's Locker Room" conversations inspire and challenge men for Kingdom assignments every 4th Thursday @ 7:00 pm.



YWE - Sisterhood, Journaling, Discussions and more. Text CCZOOM to 855-508-7521



Children's Church meets every 1st & 3rd Sunday @ 1:00 pm.

Teen Church meets every 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 1:00 pm. Every 5th Sunday is Fun Fellowship Sunday for all Youth! To register, Text "CCZOOM" to 855-508-7521.