



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

BY BISHOP CARL PIERCE, SR.

Grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ,

What an exciting time to know Jesus, and to know Him in the power of His resurrection! We serve a mighty God, and how marvelous is His favor to those who love and obey Him. Having experienced undeniably the most tumultuous year of most of our lives, we have the testimony however that the Lord has brought us through, and has allowed us entry into a brand-new year. While the pain and strain of 2020 lingers, the attitude and situating of the believer must not remain where God has brought us.

As we have embarked upon a new year, I encourage you to be keen in your expectancy and anticipation of the radical blessings of God amidst these turbulent times. God has decreed that this is our time of uncommon blessings, even what would seem to be unfathomable benedictions that both land and people are so in dire need of today. Blessings that will cause many to be as were the fishermen in the fifth chapter of Luke, 'astonished' at the tremendous unexplainable blessings of God, simply because they had the courage to take God at His Word.

My friend, the era of shallow things is behind us. In fact, the shallowness of our spirituality, the senseless mindset and doings of those things that do not please God must be left in the past. We must not bring frivolousness as a carryout into the future. God's desire for us in this season is that we launch out into the deep, even the depth of His favor upon us. Therefore, let us continue to strengthen our nets and reinforce our ships with spiritual fervor that we may realize and then maintain all that God has destined for us.

I exhort you to holy living. In fact, it is too late in the evening to think of turning back. The blessings of God are for those who will trust and obey Him. So, do not forfeit your blessing nor veto your purpose dilly-dallying in sin. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12)." Your blessing and your salvation are from the one and same God, so yield yourself to Him and His way.

Happy New Year!



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Head to Toe Prayer Series

BY EVANG. KAY N. HARDING

Jesus said "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint..." (Luke 18:1).

Andraé Crouch penned a song with the lyrics, "we need to hear from you, we need a word from you, if we don't hear from you, what will we do..." God's ears are open to our prayers and we, as His children, must have our ears open to listening and following His instructions. In this series, as we transition into a new year, we will focus our attention on learning how to hear the voice of the Lord. As we take this journey, let's consider the following scriptures to help us focus our prayers:

- **Searching for Direction or Knowledge:** (*Prov. 18:15*) - "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." (*Prov. 3:5-6*) - "...and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths ." (*Prov. 8:33*) - "... Listen to instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it."
- **Listening to the Voice of God:** (*John 10:27*) - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Dear Lord, based on your Word, I know that your ears are attentive to my cry. Lord, I come to you today and I ask you for direction and knowledge. I ask you to guide me and help me to not make decisions based on my own intellect, understanding, or emotions. Allow me to be still and listen to your directions. Lord help me to obtain wisdom from your Word and wisdom from wise counsel. Lord help me to know your voice and to follow you.

This month, you are encouraged to continue to find additional scriptures on listening and obeying the Lord, memorize and pray those scriptures over yourself, family and others. Next month, we'll focus on another part of the body in our journey through the Head to Toe Prayer Series.

Refining During Adversity

BY ELD. GREGORY RICKS

According to Merriam-Webster, to be refined is, "to be free from impurities or unwanted material, to elevate, or to improve or perfect by pruning." God looks at us, not as full of impurity, but full of potential. He, being the Refiner, and we an unrefined people riddled with imperfections and impurities, are full of God-given potential and beauty. God in His sovereignty chooses to use fire through adversities to rid us of those imperfections and impurities. When these adversities come upon us, we tend to do what is natural and begin to think of ways we can change the situation. Our minds become overwhelmed with thoughts of how we can possibly escape the fire of our trials, and even our prayers become riddled with pleas to God, "Make a way of escape!" However, we become purified because of the fire of adversity.

God's will is not for us to be consumed, but to purify and cleanse us. In 2020, many of us drew closer to God. We prayed more, looked out for our fellow man and families came together to communicate more with one another instead of at each other. We became more God conscious. I encourage you to remain close to God knowing that if He is for us, who can be against us? "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6)."

**WELCOME TO
CARTER MEMORIAL
CHURCH** OF BALTIMORE
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
W/ ELDER JEFF CHERRY

**SATURDAYS @ 6PM
ON ZOOM
SIGN UP FOR CLASS TODAY**

**INTERCESSORY
PRAYER**

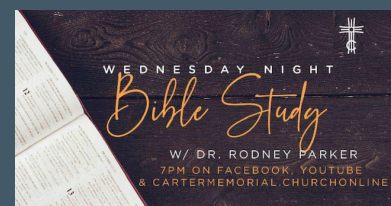
Monday @7pm & Wednesday @Noon

**Prayer Conference Call Line
712-432-0075
Access code 737082#**

**Wednesday
Prayer @ Noon**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything
give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**WEDNESDAY | 12 NOON
PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL LINE
712-432-0075 737082#**





TECHNOLOGY IN THE ERA OF ABUNDANT SCREEN TIME

BY NICOLE LAW

It is safe to assume that technology such as mobile phones, computers, and tablets have taken over our lives as we continue to navigate in these socially distanced times. Whether it's for work or entertainment, screen time during the pandemic has significantly increased. Dry eyes are a common result after looking at a digital screen for a long period of time. According to a recent Alcon/Ipsos poll, about 45% of the individuals surveyed experienced dry eyes after spending more time on their digital devices. In addition to the dry eyes, other issues, such as information overload have increased. This issue can play a significant impact on our mental wellness.

SOCIALLY OVERWHELMED

Since social media usage has greatly increased, the availability of constant information regarding current events like the pandemic and the election has created an overstimulation of information. This overstimulation can affect mental health because of the inability to disengage. Digesting too much information with little downtime can affect individuals and cause depression and anxiety. Disengaging can help to improve mental wellness because the focus is elsewhere. It can also help lessen dry eye symptoms due to less screen time. On the positive side, the use of technology during the pandemic has increased connectivity between individuals and their family and friends while also following the CDC

guidelines. It has also enabled churches to continue to have service through the use of streaming and networking platforms. The presence of Youtube and Facebook have brought members together from afar each Sunday and Wednesday for church service and Bible Study.

STAYING ENGAGED



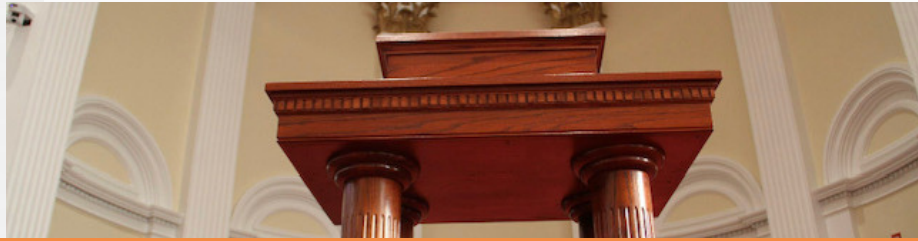
Zoom has allowed sessions such as the Women's "Fireside Chat" and the Men's "Locker Room Experience" to virtually connect members to discuss various spiritual, health, and lifestyle topics. Though the location of the delivery may be different, the Believer has been able to virtually stay connected to the church and engage in social activities.

Staying connected and engaged can help to mitigate loneliness among those who may live alone. Having technology to keep us connected is important, however, being mindful of screen time usage and knowing when to disengage is equally important to increase positive mental wellness and to give our eyes a rest. Technology has brought us together, let's make sure its consumption is both spiritually and mentally healthy.



"Be alert and of sober mind..."

1 PETER 5:8



THE GIVING SEASON

BY SHARON LAW

The last quarter of the year marks the time when we are asked to dig deep in our pockets and give to several charitable efforts in the Poppleton Community that support children and families in need during the holidays.

ANGEL TREE

17 years ago, the late Elder Paul Alexander, who was deeply passionate about ministering to incarcerated men, introduced Carter Memorial Church to the Prison Fellowship Ministry. After weekly bible study visits to the prison, Elder Alexander spoke to men who struggled with not being present daily in the lives of their children and spouses and particularly, unable to provide gifts for their families at Christmas. He witnessed, first hand, the effects of systematic incarceration which strained family ties to the breaking point. Our Angel Tree "Happy Birthday Jesus" Celebration Dinner opened the door for countless elders, ministers, missionaries and lay members to share the love of Christ tangibly and strengthen family bonds, delivering personalized gifts and the Gospel to children on behalf of their incarcerated parent. In addition, every angel tree family received a free and easy-to-read Bible in English or Spanish. 2020 marked the 1st Virtual Angel Tree Celebration, allowing our efforts to continue on a different platform. Since 2003, through your generous donations, 510 families in the Southwest Baltimore region representing 3,060 children have been recipients of your gracious gifts.

PROJECT HARVEST

Recognizing an increased need between Thanksgiving and Christmas to provide perishable and non-perishable food items to families in our community, Project Harvest was birthed as an extension of the food pantry ministry nearly 20 years ago. Countless donations along with Maryland Food Bank and local groceries have provided generous meals for 1,750 families. Project Harvest Day- the 2nd Sunday in December-culminates with families gathering to hear a message of God's love, receive food baskets and enjoy a coffee and danish fellowship following service. In 2020, 100 families were served in Poppleton including Hollins House, Vintage Gardens, Mt. Claire Overlook and our community partner, James McHenry Elementary Middle School.

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS: COAT & TOILETRIES DRIVE

"Watching homeless people huddle together to flee the bitter cold is painfully disturbing." This quote made a significant impact on one of our members who then opened and emptied his coat closet to share warmth, a bagged lunch and a message of inspiration. Each year, the evangelism ministry coordinates this effort which includes donations of new or gently used coats, blankets, hats, gloves, socks & toiletries and then distributes these items to the homeless population mid-December.



"God loves a
cheerful
giver..."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7





CARTER MEMORIAL YOUTH MINISTRY

The objective of the Youth Department is to inspire spiritual and physical growth by providing enthusiastic youth programs that are designed to be life changing and fulfilling to today's youth:

- **Children's Church**, a Sunday worship experience that meets the needs and interests of Kingdom youth by keeping the worship experience vibrant, interesting, inclusive and relevant to youth. For information text (in caps) CCZOOM to 855-508-7521.
- **Young Men of Valor** a group of young men (ages 13-19), who have an interest in becoming leaders of their church and community, understanding their roles as men of God, and encouraging growth in self-discipline, self-assurance, leadership and love for God.
- **Young Women of Excellence (YWE)** encourages young ladies (ages 13-21) to live life to its fullest by having good morals, learning budgeting principles, social graces, preparatory college skills and make good career choices. There are opportunities for growth in self-discipline, self-assurance, leadership and love for God. YWE meets every 2nd Sunday at 1:00 pm EST. Text CCZOOM to 855-508-7521.
- **Cross-Fit Youth Bible Study** provides biblical lessons with scriptural principles with varied levels of understanding, and provides creative, thought-provoking and age-appropriate lessons every Friday at 7:30 pm. To register, Text "Crossfit" to 855-508-7521.

YOUNG WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE (YWE) SPOTLIGHT

BY SIS. CHERISE ROBERTS, COORDINATOR

YWE recognizes Taneara Silver. Taneara is the youngest daughter of Brother Robert Silver and attends 8th grade at the Seed School of Maryland in Baltimore. Taneara is one of our bright and anointed mentees who is always very attentive during sessions, asks great questions that engage her fellow peers in thought-provoking conversations that relate to the Bible lessons on becoming a woman of God. Taneara is very serious about her education and aspires to become an English Translator abroad.



YOUTH PASTOR Elder Devin Roberts



CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sis. Lanette Henderson





NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BY SIS. ALVERA GUNN



Minister Troy Griffin joins the Carter Memorial family after relocating to the Maryland area from Connecticut. Minister Griffin is the Vice President of National Care of Operations at Comcast Headquarters in Philadelphia, PA, and is lead Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) for National Care. Minister Griffin is a native of Virginia, and as a 4th Generation member of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), he brings a wealth of ministry experience: Sunday School Teacher, Foreign Missions, Pastor's Aide, New Members Coordinator, Praise & Worship team, choir member and a love for God and His people.

Minister Griffin is passionate about Missions and believes, "ministry is broader than the four walls, and connecting with people makes the difference!" Minister Griffin knew as soon as he was settled, a Church home would be a high priority. "After being invited to Carter Memorial Church by Mother Sylvia Law, and attending several services, I was drawn by the way everyone, from layman to leadership were serious about ministry." When asked what was the most memorable experience while visiting Carter Memorial, Minister Griffin stated, "I was warmly greeted at the door and felt welcomed by everyone. I remember walking into the vestibule waiting to be seated, and the power of God had taken over the entire church, even the Greeters and the Ushers. The Pastor, Bishop Carl Pierce, Sr., was so down to earth...an anointed leader who was personable and available to the members. That sealed it for me...then the pandemic closed the doors of the church." Through virtual worship, Minister Griffin became a member of Carter Memorial Church.

Carter Memorial Church, through the leadership of Bishop Pierce, did not allow ministry to cease during the pandemic, but transformed the worship experience and the spread of the gospel through the use of multiple social media and virtual platforms. The ministry continues to flourish.

NEW MEMBERS & VIRTUAL MEMBERS

- D. Johnson
- G. Turner
- O. Coleman
- A. Coleman
- C. Beeks
- G. Morsell
- G. Brown
- G. Ross (Virtual Member)
- K. Johnson
- T. Griffin
- T. Hopkins-Johnson
- K. Johnson
- M. Hinkins (Virtual Member)
- S. Heidelberg
- S. Murray (Virtual Member)
- U. Hudson



**"Then I will
give you
shepherds
after my
own
heart..."**

JEREMIAH 3:15



CARTER MEMORIAL HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

BY SIS. VERONICA DORSEY



Sister Verria Powell has been a member of Carter Memorial Church of God in Christ (COGIC), formerly know as Carter's Temple COGIC, since birth. Sister Powell is one of sixteen children born to Evangelist Rosa Lee Lewis, a godly example to her children, a woman of prayer and faithfully committed to ministry. Sister Powell observed how her mother served in ministry while raising her children, which ultimately led her to have a mind for ministry and being a servant. Sister Powell is an humble, soft

spoken woman with a gentle spirit, but also strong and firm in her convictions when it comes to the work of the Lord. Sister Powell has many fond memories of Carter Memorial in the years she has been a member, and was asked to share a few.

Sister Powell remembers the Late Bishop Frank J. Ellis, former Pastor of Carter Memorial. " I was blessed to be Bishop Ellis' Secretary. He was a very kind-hearted man and would not allow you to do something that he himself would not do. When Bishop Ellis became ill, I became his nurse, and found it an honor to assist his wife, Mother Patricia Ellis, to care for her husband. Bishop and Mother Ellis considered me as the 'daughter they never had.' I had other duties as well that included peeling potatoes for the church dinner, working in the kitchen or where ever help was needed.

When asked to recall a sermon preached by Bishop Carl Pierce, Sr., that tremendously impacted her life, it didn't take long for Sister Powell to respond. "It was November 4, 2004, and the topic was 'Faith...Stay Focused, the enemy wants your mind. You can't have dysfunctional faith if you walk in Victory.'" Sis Powell also shared words of encouragement to potential members considering joining Carter Memorial Church, "Listen to the man of God, take notes during sermons, go home and study the notes, apply the word to your life and read not only the scripture given, but read the entire verse referenced in the scripture text given. Finally, live the life that is being preached. If you're ever given the opportunity to help or assist the man of God don't take it for granted. Take it very seriously and learn from the experience. Be Honest and True to your assignment."



"Stay
focused, the
enemy wants
your mind..."

BISHOP CARL A. PIERCE, SR.



JANUARY 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#

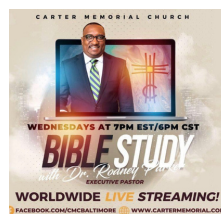
INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Are you seeking peace of mind or a closer relationship with God? Join us for Intercessory prayer on Monday at 7:00 pm EST by dialing:
(712) 432-0075 Access Code: 737082#
(712) 432-1085 (Recorded Prayer)

PRAYER WITH THE MOTHERS

Join the Mother's Board of Carter Memorial every Wednesday at 12:00 pm EST by dialing:
(712) 432-0075 Access Code: 737082#
(712) 432-1085 (Recorded Prayer)

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY



Are you ready for a deep dive into the word of God through the scripture? Meet us for our mid-week Bible Study every Wednesday at 7:00 PM EST on the following link:
Facebook.com/CMCBaltimore

SATURDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL



The word of God is alive and active in Sunday School "Saturday" Edition! For an engaging discussion, join our Sunday school on Saturdays with Elder Jeff Cherry on Zoom at 6:00 pm EST. To attend click the link:
[SS Registration](#)

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SERVICE



A Great Place to Grow in Worship and the Word! Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am EST. Click on the following links to join us:
Facebook.com/CMCBaltimore
or www.cartermemorial.com

