

A Christian Education Publication

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MOUNT AIRY BAPTIST CHURCH:
"RIGHTING WRONG RELATIONSHIPS"
(Maintaining Healthy Relationships)

Pastor L. B. West, D.R.S.



Read: Matthew 5:23-24

Relationships are vitally important in carrying out Christ's Mission and in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As believers,

relationships are of vital importance to accomplishing the Divine Will of God for our lives. It takes people, who are willing to work together and partner together; people who are willing to bring people together to show the greatness of Christ in their lives, which in turn would give God all the glory, all the honor and all the praise. That is our mission, as followers of The Lord Jesus Christ.

But our mission is also to allow God to use us as His vessels to glorify Him by making disciples right within our very own sphere of influence. Since God is our leader, our Guide, our instructor, and our Helper, let's join in His mission to reconcile the world to Himself, establish His Kingdom, exalt Christ as Lord, and glorify His name.

The hindrance to all believers accomplishing this objective lies in the reality of the fact that so many people have invested in and they are still yet engaged in "Wrong or Poor Relationships."

Wrong/Poor relationships erect barriers: barriers to witnessing, to training and discipling another person. Wrong/Poor relationships erect barriers to equipping and serving co-laborers. The text of Matthew 5:23-24 shows us the value that God places

on having right relationships. The verse gives us indication that even if we are praying at the Altar and we realize that another person has angst against us, we are to stop praying and/or sacrificing and go to that person to reconcile that relationship. Any involvement that any of His children have with wrong relationships, God is depending on us, as His vessels, to go about the business of righting all wrong relationships. Rest assured that God's intent is for His children/His vessels to set the proper example for establishing and maintaining good relationship status, while here on Terra Firma.

The Body of Christ is a loving family, but they still experience misunderstandings. They experience hurt. They experience degradation and disappointments. They experience let downs and unmet expectations. So what should the Believer do when one or more of these problems arise in a relationship? Are there any reasons why relationships should be restored immediately? If you are the offender, what actions should you take? If you are the offended, what steps should you take? Is there a role for a peacemaker? If so, what should it be?

My brothers and sisters, fellowship & Love among Believers is at the heart of Christian experience. Our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ binds us together with other Believers in the Body of Christ. Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins and restored the broken relationship with God, (Romans 5:1). Jesus' death on the cross also made possible right relationships among God's children. Read (1 John 4:20-21; 3:14). We are to love others in word and in deed (1 John 3:18). In spite of some differences of opinion, personality

clashes, power struggles, jealousy, pride, anger, envy, gossip, boasting, bitterness, impatience, etc.

Believers are not immune to relationship problems, caused by others or self-inflicted, specifically in the way you treat others.

- People will attack you
- People will ignore you
- People will gossip about you
- People will avoid you, even while you're living a life that honors Christ.

As a believer, when you become aware of a relationship problem, immediately take steps to correct it. Why?

- 1. Because wrong relationships affect your relationship with God - Read Matthew 6:14-15; 1 John 4:20-21
- Sin destroys human fellowship. Can you expect God to forgive you if you don't forgive others?
- Fellowship on the human level is restored through forgiveness.
- 2. Because believers are commanded by Christ to restore relationships – Read Mt. 5:23-24; 18:21-22; John 13:34-35
- These Scriptures command believers to restore relationships, no matter who is at fault. We are expected to love others in the same way that Christ exemplified His love for us.
- 3. Because believers are to restore right relationships as a witness to the unsaved world. – Read John 13:34-35
- Love for one another easily identifies Jesus Christ's true disciples. How can you tell others about God's love if you are unloving toward fellow believers? Just as God reconciled the world to Himself through Christ, you and I have been given the ministry of reconciliation. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

- Our relationship in Christ shows in how we treat people. Others watch how we model living the Christian life.

- If people hear you say you're Christian, but they see you harboring bitterness, unforgiveness, or a critical spirit, your words will not count.

Seeking a person to right a wrong relationship requires a great deal of personal initiative and courage. Taking the initiative and having courage is absolutely necessary to begin the process.

As believers if we are going to right a wrong relationship, we must understand that the process begins with an Initial Personal Act:

- 4. Forgiveness is and must be a deliberate decision of the individual's will. Even if the other person never asks for forgiveness, you can still say, "I choose to consider not to hold you in debt to me"
- 4a. When Satan tries to play on your emotions and reminds you of how much you hurt from the other person's actions, you can say: No, on 9/23/2018 I made a deliberate, volitional decision to release that person from my debt.
- 4b. Forgiveness removes you from potential torment. Unforgiveness can also have physical symptoms that can harm you.
- 4c. When you forgive others, you place that person's case in God's court, saying, "I trust you, God, in your sovereign mercy to deal with the person in a better way than I can."
- 4d. Forgiveness causes you to rely on God's resources. When you do not forgive, it's as though you're saying, God, You don't hold the ultimate key to my joy. That unforgiven person does."

The Danger of Lingering Unchecked Bitterness

Seeking a person to right a wrong relationship requires a great deal of personal initiative and courage. But getting it done is necessary to begin the process.

You may be tempted to postpone actions about the estranged relationship; rationalizing that things should cool off, or you need to wait until the mood is right.

The danger of prolonging or putting off corrective action:

Read Hebrews 12:15 ... What are the dangers implied or referred to:

- 5a. When bitterness lingers, the person may forget about it.
- 5b. When bitterness lingers, you may decide not to forgive the person.
- 5c. As bitterness lingers, the same bitterness may grow up and defile many. Roots grow from covered/planted seeds. Therefore a root of bitterness may spring up.
- 5d. When you meet a bitter person, rest assured it probably began with unforgiveness and resentment, that grew until it consumed his/her personality and then spilled over to others.
- 5e. Side effects of bitterness: it can consume you and zap your energy; fretting over the broken relationship - leads to wasted energy. Act quickly and wasted energy can be channeled into other areas.
- Lingering bitterness can nullify a spirit of reconciliation. The Spirit of Reconciliation should be a distinguishing mark of a believer.

Read again Matthew 5:23-24...

Where was the disciple when the realization came?

The disciple was at the altar when he realized something was amiss in the

relationship. In God's presence, one can become aware of needs and problems in relationships. As one opens him/herself to God's Spirit, He examines your heart and convicts you of sin.

If you have caused the offense, what should you do?

- Use 1 John 1:9; as the offender, you must also confess to the offended person by verbalizing the specific offense and asking for forgiveness.

Which approach would be best?

- I was wrong, but if you had not...
- If I have been wrong, forgive me...
- I am sorry that you are angry with me.
- I was wrong to _____. Will you forgive me?

Your confession should not be conditional. It should not occur with an attitude of if's or maybe's. The act that provoked your anger is immaterial. As a believer, your responsibility is to confess your wrong and ask for forgiveness.

Possibilities of Seeking Reconciliation: It just may be that the single most damaging hurdle to God's work towards building thriving relationships is an unforgiving spirit. That kind of attitude prevents reconciliation.

A Believers' Responsibility is to:

Seek peace: Make every effort to live in peace with all men. Heb. 12:14-15

- Be pure and holy – seek personal cleansing from The Lord before you attempt to be reconciled with anyone.
- Seek to have pure relationships with others, so they can experience God's grace and can be forgiven.
- Diligently look for opportunities to make peace rather than spread gossip or talk about others.

Prevent bitterness and resentment

- Unforgiven sin plant roots of bitterness that yield evil fruit and cause many people to be defiled or contaminated.
- Unreconciled relationships develop roots of bitterness that make a relationship continually grow worse.

Our Personal Resources:

- You have God's forgiveness – therefore you can afford to forgive others, (Matthew 18:21-35)
- You have fellowship with God – 1 John 1: Walk openly and honestly with God – do not try to hide anything.
- Walk openly and honestly with others in the light. James 5:16
- God's desire is for us to have full fellowship with Him and with others. Confession opens your relationship with all concerned.
- Rest assured The Holy Spirit is at work, not only in you but He is going to use you to help the other person become aware of conviction by The Holy Spirit.

Suggestions for Our Actions in Reconciliation

- Find a place where you can talk with the other person privately and uninterrupted.
- If the Holy Spirit has convicted you, initiate the conversation by verbalizing your realization of your shortcomings.
- Initiate the conversation by saying: I've been thinking a lot about our relationship, and The Holy Spirit has convicted me of my (wrong attitude) toward you. (Possible wrong attitudes could be: Unforgiving spirit, bitterness, resentment, pride, or judgmental attitude. Possible wrong actions could be: Ignoring the person, avoiding the person, talking about the person, criticizing the person, arguing with the person,

- trying to tear the person down, embarrassing the person, teasing, provoking, or annoying the person.)
- Do not say anything to lessen the conviction by persuading the other person to minimize your act or to dismiss it. (Example - I have asked God to forgive me and I believe He has. Now I would like to ask you to forgive me.) The other person might just say, (Oh, it's nothing, I've done the same thing, or never mind). Our follow up ought to be: It's important for me to know that you forgive me, if you can; do you forgive me? If the person does not then say: I'm truly sorry for what I've done, and I hope that someday you'll forgive me.
- The wrong way to begin reconciliation is to blame the other person or to attempt to minimize your own shortcoming by saying: (I acted wrongly, but you had ...then I...) This kind of statement suggests the other person is really at fault.
- You may want to initiate the conversation by asking: (Have I offended you in any way?) If the person says yes, ask how? Then listen intently to see the challenge from the other person's point of view.
- If the assessment is accurate, ask the person to forgive you. If it's not true then state the truth as objectively as you can, tell of your intentions in case your actions and/or your words were misinterpreted. Let the person know you did not intend to leave that impression. Promise to be more careful about your actions/words in the future and again ask the person to forgive you.
- If someone has offended you, express your feelings to the person in the spirit of love, (Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1); do not ignore the problem; the tendency is to let it go. Ignoring the problem does not ensure

that “No one misses the Grace of God” (Hebrews 12:15). By facing the problem, you just might help the other person seek God’s forgiveness.

- Use words that express your genuine feelings about the action against you rather than words that accuse. Ex: I felt hurt when I learned that you made these remarks about me. Beginning the conversation with “You did _____ to me” automatically puts the person on the defensive and dilutes the possibility that the other person will hear the depth of your feelings or convictions.
- If addressing the situation privately does not affect reconciliation, ask another compassionate, Spirit-Filled, mature believer to help in bringing about reconciliation.
- If the matter still cannot be resolved then the possibility of the congregation being made aware, as an absolute last resort, may become necessary. If the person still does not wish for reconciliation, it then becomes clear that the person desires to be isolated from all involved. However, it is also clear that our attitude should continue to be one of deep concern, love and desire for reconciliation.
- Keep in mind throughout the process that we should be seeking reconciliation, not justification or vindication. The process is validated only when we follow it with a sincere, loving desire to restore fellowship between you and another individual.
- Pray together that God will help both of you walk in His light and have a pure, honest relationship in the future.

Think about all of your people associations. Are there any difficult relationships that need to be reconciled? If so, write the names down and take them to your “War Room”

and present them before The Lord. Continue to seek reconciliation until you fulfill God’s command: “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:8)

Righting wrong relationships include confession and asking for forgiveness, but there may be a need to add one more step. You just might need to make Restitution.

- Making restitution goes beyond saying I’m sorry. It puts feet on our apologies. It involves doing as much as we can to reverse the damage of our words and/or our actions.

Which of the following represent proper restitution?

- Tell others involved that you were wrong.
- Publicly retract statements you made that were gossip, slander or lies.

Return stolen property

Replace or repair damaged property.

Offer to help with a project or another responsibility.

Ex: Brother Jack didn’t trust Brother Jim, so he spread some vicious lies about Jim at work in an effort to make trouble for him.

Co-workers began to snub or ignore Jim because they believed the gossip that Jack spread. Later Jack learned that his view of Jim was entirely wrong. He learned that Jim was a decent, honorable person. He got to know Jim better and realized that he could be trusted.

Feeling badly that he had said and done things to hurt Jim, Jack asked Jim for forgiveness. Jack also went to each person to whom he had gossiped and admitted that he had lied about Jim. Then he used his influence at work to have Jim appointed to a committee on which his reliability would be very evident.

In Jack’s case, how was restitution applied and practiced?

- a.) Jack tried to correct the gossip.
- b.) He tried to improve Jim’s situation at work.

c.) He went out of his way to try to restore Jim's good name.

Taking the Initiative

If a fellow believer offends you, you may be tempted to wait for that person to initiate the resolve for your problem. In Matthew 18:15-17 Jesus instructed the offended party to initiate the action.

After reading Matthew 18:15-17 put the following events in proper sequence.

- ✓ If the presence of witnesses does not accomplish reconciliation, take the matter to the Church.
- ✓ Go to the one who offends you and seek reconciliation.
- ✓ If the two of you can agree, the relationship is restored.
- ✓ A fellow Believer offends you. If the offender refuses to be reconciled, take two or more believers with you and seek reconciliation.
- ✓ If the offender fails to heed the church's advice, treat the person as a heathen.

To have good healthy fellowship in the body, believers must settle disputes. As an absolute last resort, if a person does not wish to reconcile the matter then he/she has proven to be unconcerned for the good of the fellowship and in effect has decided to disassociate himself from the Church.

Notice however, the text does not say that the person has ceased to be your brother or your sister in Christ, nor does it say that any of us are entitled to engage in acts of bitterness, vindictiveness or revenge. The attitude of the offended toward the offender should continue to be one of love and deep concern. The relationship changes, not the Christian attitude.

In the book "Concentric Circles of Concern, by Oscar Thompson, he said that God holds us responsible for everyone He brings into our spheres of influence. "When we have ruptured relationships horizontally, we also

have a ruptured relationship vertically, with God."

Thompson said that because of ruptured relationships among relatives and close friends, we often want to skip those closest to us and reach out to persons we barely know to salve our consciences. Thompson said, when this happens, "It is not that we do not know The Lord. It is just that He is not really Lord of our lives. We are not willing to let Him be Lord of everything and accept people in His condition... If we are genuine, we will want to share with those closest to us."☐

Questions about Life, Suicide is not the Answer

by Dr. Robin Kelley, Health Ministry

As we welcome in a new year, we welcome in new opportunities and possibilities. Where there is life and health, there is always hope, options on what to do and where to go. Still in life there are often questions about purpose, next steps, what to do now. For those who seem to have all the answers, there can still be uncertainty or doubt, lies that are self-told or regrets. Even those who have a great deal of money and material things still have questions about life. God has given us life; even when life is difficult, we can seek assistance from Him, family, friends, professionals, even strangers-never consider suicide; it is not the answer to our problems.

What is Suicide?

The National Institute of Mental Health defines suicide as the following: "when people direct violence at themselves with the intent to end their lives, and they die because of their actions (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-faq/index.shtml#pub1>).

It is a Public Health Problem
Unfortunately, those who are famous, and those who are not as well-known are

committing suicide at alarming rates. It is growing to be a public health problem in 2019. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, over 40,000 people die by suicide each year in the United States; it is the 10th leading cause of death overall (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>). In fact, research has found that suicide, along with drug overdose, is now contributing to a decrease in the overall life expectancy in this country.

Life Expectancy in the United States is Lower Due to Growing Number of Suicides According to reports, “over the past decades, suicide has ranked as the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, a third new final government report reveals. Though constant, the rate has increased over time from about 10 suicides per 100,000 in 1999 to 14 per 100,000 in 2017. And female suicides increased at a higher rate than male suicides during this period, though more men than women die by suicide each year.”

The rate of suicide rose in 44 states between 1999 and 2016, with half of states reporting an increase of greater than 30 percent. Many suicide prevention programs focus on helping teenagers.

Suicide Does Not Discriminate.

People of all genders, ages, and ethnicities can be at risk for suicide. Many, many more people who are youth and children are committing and attempting to commit suicide.

The suicide rate for white children and teens between 10 and 17 was up 70%. According to the USA Today, findings have shown that between 2006 and 2016, the latest data analysis available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that more and more youth are taking their own lives. Surprisingly, African Americans are dying at higher rates. Although black children and teens kill themselves less often than white

youth do, the rate of increase was higher — 77% (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/03/19/teen-suicide-soaring-do-spotty-mental-health-and-addiction-treatment-share-blame/428148002/>).

Risk Factors

There is no one reason why people commit suicide. Researchers feel that there are similar risk factors in those attempting to, or committing the act, such as the following:

- Talking about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- Talking about feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live
- Making a plan or looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching online, stockpiling pills, or buying a gun
- Talking about great guilt or shame
- Talking about feeling trapped or feeling that there are no solutions
- Feeling unbearable pain (emotional pain or physical pain)
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Using alcohol or drugs more often
- Acting anxious or agitated
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Changing eating and/or sleeping habits
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Taking great risks that could lead to death, such as driving extremely fast
- Talking or thinking about death often
- Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly changing from very sad to very calm or happy
- Giving away important possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Putting affairs in order, making a will

What Happens Next?

One thing that is clear is that families and loved ones are very sad, stunned and upset when they learn about their death of a loved one.

Get Help

If you or someone you know has these risk factors, get help as soon as possible, particularly if the behavior is new or has increased recently. Help can come in the form of counseling, or getting involved in group work. One resource is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The deaf and hard of hearing can contact the Lifeline via TTY at 1-800-799-4889.

Suicide is complicated and tragic but knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can help save lives. ☐

All About MAPOPS (Mount Airy Puppets of Praise)

by Sis Delores Agee

The puppet is an inanimate object that takes on human characteristics when manipulated by a person. Its purpose is to communicate information. Puppets are a proven communication vehicle. They can help the church in teaching, training, missions, evangelism, and fellowship.

BACKGROUND

With a deeply embedded passion for the art of puppetry, since June 2013, Deloris Agee completed four years of "Developing Multi-Media Productions through Puppetry & Arts - Course 2078 offered by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. Sis Barbara Curtis completed this course in June 2016.

The opportunity to create a puppet presentation presented itself in June 2016 during the DIY Anniversary fun night. "The Ladybug" and what does your spots say about you? was our subject matter. The topic was selected based on a vision by Diana Larry Jones, where she had the committee create "save the date" invitations. A skit was created that ended with the song, "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let it Shine." Our Pastor asked that we repeat the performance in the Sanctuary.

Our 2nd presentation focused on the Fall leaves and what colors do we portray in our Christian walk which was suggested by Annette Moore. Song, "Praise Him" with the Doo-Wop quartet. The third project, for Angel Tree focused on the Angels and Stars. With a twist on the usual Christmas story, we focused on the Angels, Stars and God's plan for us comparing the stars biblical principles. Passed out stars repeated our "This Little Light of Mine" choreography.

These presentations were created using crafters card stock and mounted on painted painters stir sticks. We now have a core group of interested adults and youth anxiously waiting to be involved in this ministry here at Mt. Airy Baptist Church.

In November 2016, Barbara Curtis, Irene Parker and Deloris Agee attended a 2-day Workshop by Creative Ministries, Inc., in Harrisburg, PA. We were able to see, first hand, ministries led by youth from different States, backgrounds and religions. Hand Puppets, Mime, and many other forms of creative ministry. We were able to bring back lots of helpful hints and materials. It was an awesome blessing.

We have been blessed to receive the funds needed to purchase a portable stage and the ability to make at least 30 puppets from a pattern purchased at the 2016 Creative Ministries Conference. Our presentations to date include: "Praise Around the Clock";

"Hold My Mule"; "Stomp"; "Take Me to the King" ; "I Love the Lord" presented by our Men and "The First Leon." In addition to several other recorded music presentations and an outreach to an Assisted Living facility we are currently working on "The Sun Flower". As the sunflower follows the sun, we as Christians should follow the Son of God with a twist on Bullying.

For four days in July and August we held a Puppet Ministry Summer Camp. This is the second summer that we had these activities which included arts and crafts, bible study, and puppetry. A breakfast and lunch meal were also served. Attendance ranged from 30-50 participants. These camps ended with a special presentation from Rev. Yolanda (YoYo) Sampson a renowned children's ministry leader who captured their attention and had everyone involved in the ministry and art of puppetry.☐

The Creative World of Jennifer Lee

by Sis. Jennifer Lee

The 2017/2018 year has been filled with several inspiring creative endeavors. In the Summer of 2017, I participated in a five city European tour with the Heritage Signature Chorale under the direction of Stanley Thurston. This tour gave me the opportunity to collaborate internationally with choirs from around the world, concluding with a life changing performance at the Vatican.

Stateside, the momentum continued with a variety of concerts across the Metropolitan area (Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia), highlighting our 18th anniversary concert highlighting African American Women Composers at the National City Church on May 28, 2018.

I have graced the stage of the Anacostia Playhouse with the award-winning play, Happy Ending. I portrayed, Ellie the lead character in a 1960 satirical comedy with

Douglas Turner Ward, co-founder of the Negro Ensemble. This production was recommended for the Helen Hayes award in which I am thrilled!

Finally, I just appeared in-concert with Michael Abels, who is the composer of the musical score Get Out. This production premiered September 20, 2018 at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with standing room only. ☐

Pastor's Helpers Ministry

by Deaconess Phillis Anderson

The Pastor Helpers' Ministry continues to be ready to get involved and to be inspired, and never resting from God and his many manifold blessings He has restored upon us. The Ministry partnered with the Scholarship/Special Needs Ministry for various upcoming activities.

On last Friday night at Bible Study, we were asked to pick one of the children in MABC who were present at Bible Study and get to know them a little bit better i.e. get their name and telephone number, and keep in touch with them for the next 365 days. We wish to thank Deaconess Rena Agee for bringing such a wonderful thought to mind. We plan to apply this to our everyday life.

The Pastor's Helpers Ministry has also partnered with the Noon Day Prayer.

The Quote of the Month is *"Doubt whom you will, but never doubt yourself. Pray for a move of God during the worship experience"*.☐

Mount Airy Baptist Church Makes History

by Newsletter Ministry

Mount Airy marks history by ordaining five (5) female Deacons. These new Deacons are Phillis Anderson, Stephanie Glover, Winona Nixon, Donna Perry, and Cynthia Riddick.

Each Deacon completed the necessary exam and tasks necessary to fulfill the position. Also each one was presented with a certificate, Bible and Communion kit along with a hymnal.



We are so very proud of each of them. ☐

RECIPE: Butter Pecan Pound Cake
by Newsletter Ministry



- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- 1 box Betty Crocker Butter Pecan Cake Mix
- ¾ cup oil
- 1 can Coconut Pecan Frosting
- ¼ to ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup water

Spray Bundt pan with Baker’s Joy/Pam Baking Spray and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Then sprinkle chopped nuts at the bottom of pan.

Combine cake mix, eggs, oil, sugar and water. Mix about 2 minutes or until smooth. Add icing to batter, mix well, and pour into pan on top of pecans.

Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 55 minutes or until brown.

Cool for 15 to 20 minutes and turn upside down on cake plate. Enjoy! ☐

Upcoming Church Events:

March 16, 2019

Ladies of LOVE Prayer & Praise Luncheon
10AM

NCBC Annual City-Wide Prayer Breakfast
Emmanuel Baptist Church @ 9AM
2409 Ainger Place, SE
Washington, DC 20020 (\$30 p.p.)

March 20-22, 2019

NCBC Annual City-Wide Revival
Meridian Hill Baptist Church @ 7pm nightly
5354 Sheriff Road
Capital Heights, MD 20743

March 30, 2019

Mount Airy Baptist Church Federal Credit
Union Annual Business Meeting
11AM – 1PM

April 10, 2019

Spring Revival @7PM

April 13, 2019

Health Ministry Dating Violence Awareness
Seminar
Time TBD

April 19, 2019

Good Friday Service

April 27, 2019
Church Conference@ 9AM

May 13-17, 2019
NCCCE Annual Congress
G. James Gholson Middle School
900 Nalley Road
Landover, MD 20785

For Your Meditation...
“9 Characteristics of a Godly Leader”

by Deaconess Taffene Hollingsworth

Deaconess Ministry devotional from the 2018 October Ministry Meeting.

Proverbs 16: 1-3

“To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans”.

Philippians 1: 20

“I expect and hope that I will not fail Christ in anything but that I will have to courage now, as always, to show the greatness of Christ in my life here on earth, whether I live or die”.

Leadership refers to the office or position of a leader; or the capacity to lead, or the act or an instance of leading. Leadership is more than a title; in fact if you look at the word “lead” it is a verb which is action-oriented. Leadership is not about titles, positions or even flowcharts. Mount Airy Leaders learned from Pastor West that it’s about one life influencing another. One thing for sure is a leader must lead by example.

So what does the Bible say about leadership? It says it all in the book of Proverbs.

- 1) **A good leader seeks God’s direction.** Proverbs 16:1 says “The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.” Verse 3 adds, “Commit your

work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” And verse 9, “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. A good leader seeks the Lord, commits his way to the Lord, and the Lord establishes the next steps.

- 2) **A good leader is modest, not arrogant.** This person is the “know-it-all”. Proverbs 16:5 says, “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.”
- 3) **A good leader is a peacemaker.** Proverbs 16: 7 says “When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.” We should be able to empathize with others and be willing to compromise.
- 4) **A good leader is fair and just.** “Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice” (Proverbs 16:8). A good leader is more interested in doing things the right way.
- 5) **A good leader surrounds himself or herself with honest, trustworthy counselors ... and then listens to them.** “Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right” (Proverbs 16:13). A smart leader surrounds himself or herself with smarter people, who are willing to speak their minds and offer sound counsel. After all, “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed” (Proverbs 15:22).
- 6) **A good leader is a good learner.** Proverbs 16:16 says, “How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.” A good leader should

always be learning, growing and improving.

- 7) **A good leader is humble.** Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Many politicians and celebrities to CEOs and pastors, have had their empires to fall all because of pride. “It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud” (Proverbs 16:19).
- 8) **A good leader is sensible and kind.** “Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it, but the instruction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips” (Proverbs 16:22-23). Being smart and sensible makes a good leader more persuasive and effective. A good leader uses “gracious words” (verse 24), not speech that is “like a scorching fire” (verse 27).
- 9) **A good leader is slow to anger.** The Bible teaches us that “Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” A good leader does not yell at others and barks orders to no one.

God tells us how to be effective, godly leaders. It’s up to us to put our human tendencies aside and embrace these principles. It’s also up to us to pray for those under which we serve, that they too would be the good leaders God wants them to be.

Credits include: Leadership: Crosswalk Ministries, Leadership Training, Pastor L.B. West

Inclement Weather Notification

by Newsletter Ministry

Be mindful that if inclement weather occurs please consult the Mount Airy website (www.mountairybaptist.org.) and/or

Facebook page. You may also tune into NBC-4, WJLA-7, Newschannel-8, and WUSA-9 for any weather-related information. ☐

Submitting Newsletter Articles

by Newsletter Ministry

To submit something for the Newsletter, you need to...

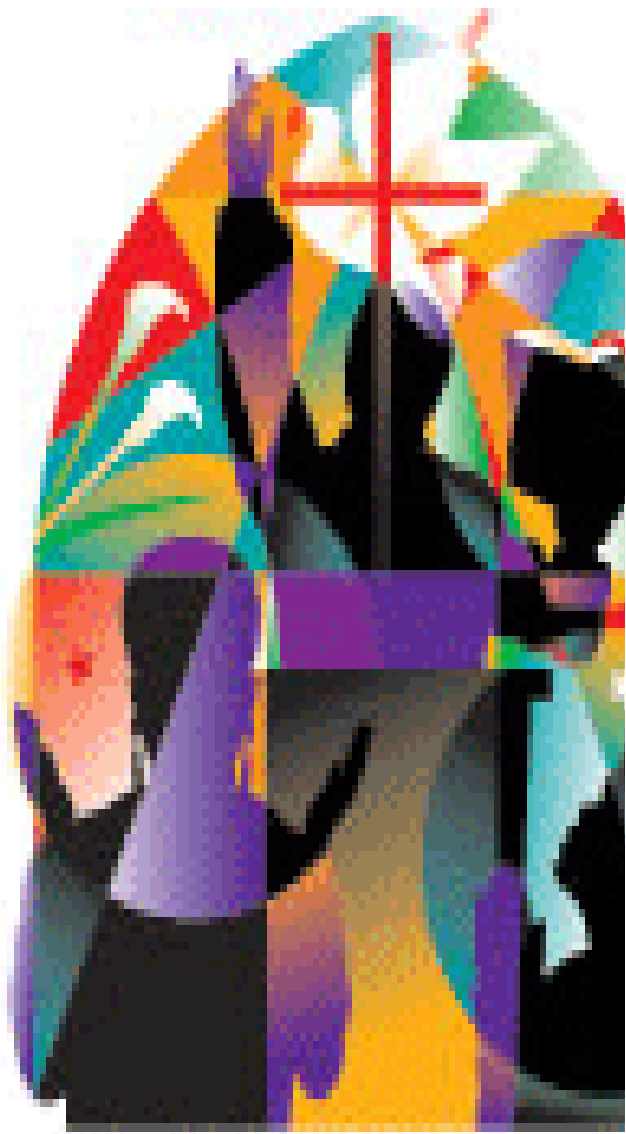
Prepare article in Microsoft Word format and email it to tcholly@comcast.net.

Documents are accepted at any time...no more deadlines.

We prefer that articles be limited to 220 words or ½ page due to space. We will no longer accept hand written articles.

Next Issue: Sunday, March 24, 2019

The Newsletter Ministry reserves the right to edit all submissions. ☐



Peace and Blessings
from God the Father
and Our Lord Jesus
Christ!