



Pastor & First Lady Richardson

Emanuel ExpressNews

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It's Time for a Breakthrough!!

May 2012



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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who has blessed us to sit in Heavenly Places in Him. I trust that you and your family are doing well and that God's choice blessings are abundant in your lives.

Our ministry theme for the month of May is Breakthrough. When we think of a breakthrough, we think of something that breaks through the norm. According to the dictionary a breakthrough is a military movement or advance all the way through and beyond an enemy's front-line defense. It is an act or instance of removing or surpassing an obstruction or restriction; the overcoming of a stalemate. It is any significant or sudden advance, development, achievement, or increase, as in scientific knowledge or diplomacy that removes a barrier to progress.

In summary, a breakthrough is advancement beyond the enemy's lines, or removing or surpassing an obstruction or restriction or a barrier to progress.

As we ponder over the definition of this powerful word, I believe we can all think of areas in our lives, where we can use a breakthrough. There are some things that are beyond our physical reach and ability and we need God to give us a breakthrough to make progress, to move forward and to overcome.

In the book of 2 Samuel 5:17-21 (and also in 1 Chronicles 14:1), King David provides us with another perspective of a Breakthrough that he experienced in a military battle. It reads "17 Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." 20 So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "*The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.*" Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.* 21 And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away". (NKJV)

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It is interesting that the Philistines, David's enemy, were deployed in the Valley of Rephaim, which means "Valley or House of Giants". However, David renames it Baal (meaning Israel's God) Perazim "who breaks out". In other words Baal Perazim means "Possessor of breaches" or the "God of a Breakthrough!"

It is also interesting that David uses the term Baal to describe God. Baal is the chief male deity, as Ashtoreth is the chief goddess, of the Canaanites, Phoenicians and Philistines. David renames this place after Baal, a god of the Philistines and not after the Lord, because at this place the enemy thought he was the strongest. So David called it Baal Perazim meaning that God broke through in the strongest place of the enemy. His message is God wants to give us a breakthrough in those areas of your life that the enemy is the strongest!



David said, *"The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water."* When waters break out of their banks, great power is displayed washing everything away in its path. As I reflected on this verse, I thought about the recent 10 year anniversary of the Chicago Flood which occurred on April 13, 1992. Jon Wren, Ph.D., P.E describes the event "In the early morning of April 13, 1992, dozens of downtown Chicago buildings started to mysteriously flood. Soon flooding knocked out utility services to more than 100 buildings. And the worst was yet to come. Flood water seeped into subway tunnels, shutting down the entire subway system. A major expressway inexplicably flooded, causing shut-down of several lanes of traffic. Hundreds of thousands of workers were sent home. Paralysis quickly gripped one of the nation's major economic centers. It took six days to plug the source of floodwater, and over a month and \$5 million to dewater building basements. The cost of the flood would ultimately total approximately \$1 billion." David describes the power of God like the Chicago flood because when God unleashed His power there was nothing that could stop it!

We learn from David that *Breakthroughs come by first inquiring of the Lord* to obtain his favor and approval. David did not pursue until God gave him the green light. When God gives you the green light, through prayer, His word or through the leading of His spirit, you must exercise your faith and courage and pursue!



Incidentally, the Chicago Flood of 2002 did not occur suddenly, but slowly. It started at the basement level. In fact insurance battles lasted for years over whether the accident was considered a "flood" or a "leak." Leaks were covered by insurance, while floods were not. Eventually it was classified a leak, and many still call it the "Great Chicago Leak."

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

WITH MSNY. ANASTASIA RICHARDSON



To the greatest Women's Department you can find anywhere – the women of the Emanuel Church of God in Christ. A very special thanks goes out to each of them for honoring yours truly on Sunday, April 15. The Women of Emanuel got together and decided that since the world celebrated First Lady Michelle Obama, they thought that it would be most befitting to honor and celebrate my birthday as the First Lady of Emanuel. To create an atmosphere of unity, the suggestion was made for all of the ladies to wear all black attire with a string of pearls. What a great surprise, even the babies had their



black and pearls on!!!! (see picture below). To add to the surprise, it just so happened that I also wore a black dress and guess what, I had my pearls on too! This was simply a confirmation, because I did not know that the women were going to be dressed in their black and pearls.

During the service Sis. Guadalupe Owens spoke about how important it was to recognize and celebrate the First Lady. She talked about how many people are unaware of what a pastor's wife encounters on a daily basis. She stated that many believe that all First Ladies have to do is sit on the front pew, cross their legs, wear designer suits, wear the finest

jewelry and display a flawless smile. This may be all that you see on Sunday morning, but there is so much more that she must do in front of the congregation and so much more behind the scenes. She talked about how the First Lady has to be her husband's greatest supporter, mother to her church children, an example for the women, secretarial support, prayer warrior, preach and teach the Word and the list goes on and on. After Sis. Owens remarks and reading about the First Lady, she presented me with a fresh water pearl on a silver chain.

If this was not enough, before service ended I was called up and asked a question, "First Lady Richardson, where do you go during the week?" My response was to work, church, workout (walking), and home. The women came from around the church and showered me with SHOES that I can wear during the week for the many places that I go. What a surprise!!!



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Celebrating Our Church Mother, Mo. Ophelia Turner

Sunday, May 13th is the day that we honor our Mothers, but it also a very special day for the Emanuel Family where we show special love to the GREATEST CHURCH MOTHER, Mother Ophelia Turner. Mother Turner is a faithful, loyal, and dedicated member of Emanuel Church of God in Christ. She is always represented and gives her support in whatever project we have going on at the church. Mother Turner has served as church mother of Emanuel for over 50 years. Please join us as we celebrate and honor this great woman of God, on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th during our morning worship at 11:00 a.m.



First Jurisdiction Illinois Annual Evangelism Symposium

The First Jurisdiction IL 10th Annual Evangelist Symposium was a tremendous success. The event took place Saturday April 14th at the Historical St. Paul Church of God in Christ where the honorable Bishop Charles Ford is pastor. President Leslie Bullock and Elect Lady Angelique Flucker presented one of the Evangelist Department's best symposiums ever.



Their theme based on 2Cor 5:17-18 was Reconciled, Revive, & Restore. The

first Workshop Presenter was Evangelist Vicky Taylor from the Peoples Church of the Harvest. Evangelist Taylor did an excellent job of addressing the theme of the symposium. The Keynote Speaker for the event was Elder Stephan Henderson from the Tabernacle Church of God. Elder Henderson came ready to preach and he delivered a powerful and motivating must hear message from the Great Commission in Matthew 28th entitled "You Take it from Here".



To hear an audio of the main message visit www.fjicogic.com.

break-through [breyk-throo]

1. a military movement or advance all the way through and beyond an enemy's front-line defense
2. an act or instance of removing or surpassing an obstruction or restriction; the overcoming of a stalemate
3. any significant or sudden advance, development, achievement, or increase, as in scientific knowledge or diplomacy, that removes a barrier to progress

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Breakthroughs come with patience. Many times we start a project or endeavor only to give up or throw in the towel prior to receiving our breakthrough. We start with the right intentions and often times we have the right plan, but if things don't move as planned or in the timeframe we allotted, then we are ready to scrap the plan and retreat. However, if you are serious about a breakthrough you must be patient and wait. Isa 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint".

Breakthroughs come with persistence. Many times we are waiting but while we're waiting, we lose the intensity of our pursuit. When we started, we were on fire, we were determined and relentless, but overtime we became lax and lethargic. We are still in the race and we are still working towards the goal, but we are not as zealous as we were before. But if we want God to break open a new realm in His Spirit that will bring us through victoriously, we must remember the words of the Apostle Paul: 1 (Cor 15:58) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".

As I close this article, I am reminded of the words of the song composed by Norman Hutchins entitled "Get Ready for your Miracle". The song starts out by saying "God is up to something" and near the end he admonishes us that "our miracle is on the way". I couldn't agree more. We are experiencing small leaks of His blessings everyday, which is an indication that God is up to something. And if we acknowledge Him, wait on Him and not get weary, our blessings, miracles and breakthroughs are on the way!

*Be Blessed
Pastor Richardson*



2012 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Just before our Easter Sunday celebration we always have our Good Friday Services. I normally attend two services: our jurisdiction's and the one at our local church. It's always a blessing to attend both of them and to hear the seven last words of Jesus on the cross.



Bishop Ocie Booker

The jurisdictional service is always held at St. John COGIC, where Administrative Assistant Supt Glover is pastor. This service is always uplifting. The atmosphere is charged with the presence of God as we bask in the melodies of inspiring songs and wait with great anticipation to hear the speakers that have been selected by our Prelate, Bishop Ocie Booker. All of the speakers were outstanding. Each of them gave us some in depth information and revelation on each of the seven last words. After the messages Holy Communion was administered by our Bishop. We were truly edified and blessed by this service.



Pastor Michael Hill
*Father Forgive Them for They
Know Not What They Do*



Pastor Issac Bailey
*Today Thou Shall Be With Me
in Paradise*



Pastor Ollie Turner
Woman Behold Thou Son



Elder Steven Clairborne
*My God, My God Why
Has Thou Forsaken Me*



Missionary Kathleen Henderson
I Thirst



Pastor Tyrone Gaston
It is Finished



Elder Leonard Williams
*Father, Into Thy Hands I
Commend My Spirit*



Pastor Michael A. Richardson

Our local service was conducted on the same format as our Jurisdiction's. Pastor Richardson always tries to get a mixture of auxiliaries to be represented in this service. The congregation is usually in their red to represent the blood that Jesus shed for us over 2000 years ago. Our first speaker started with an illustration of how the scene might have looked

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the night that Jesus was crucified and it gave us a better perspective on how Christ suffered and died for us. Each speaker was excellent; they did their research and were able to give us some very good revelations on the seven last words. This year we were also blessed to have with us Pastor Michael Hill and the Word of Truth Church of God in Christ. Pastor Hill gave the climax. The Lord blessed our service in a tremendous way. What seemed to be a bad Friday turned out to be a Good Friday because we know that on Sunday (Easter) our Savior rose with all power in His hands!!



Speakers: from left to right - Sis. Kelly, Sis. Thomas, Sis. Brookins, Sis. Owens, Sis. Williams, Sis. Jones and Msny. Johnson

Sis. Marilyn Thomas - *"Father Forgive Them for They Know Not What They Do"*

Sis. Paula Kelly - *"Today Thou Shall Be with Me in Paradise"*

Sis. Guadalupe Owens - *"Woman Behold Thou Son"*

Sis. Katherine Brookins - *"My God, My God Why Has Thou Forsaken Me"*

Sis. Viveca Williams - *"I Thirst"*

Sis. Christine Jones - *"It is Finished"*

Msny. Alayna Johnson - *"Father, Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit"*

Pastor Michael Hill, Word of Truth COGIC was our climax speaker.



To hear audio of these Good Friday Services you can visit the following websites:

First Jurisdiction Illinois - www.fjicogic.org

Emanuel Church of God in Christ— www.emmanuelcogic.com

EMANUEL HOSTS THE APRIL DISTRICT MEETING

On Sunday April 15, 2012 The D.A. Reed Sr. District held its April District Meeting Hosted by Thee Emanuel Church of God in Christ at Zion Temple Church of God in Christ at 5:00pm. First Lady Sherry Swan was the emcee for the evening which went to aid the tone of the service as she's a natural fireball praiser. The choir sang until the glory of the Lord fell from heaven under the leadership of First Lady Klista Hill and Sis. Keeya Thomas. From there everyone was given a passport to praise which would allow them to see past their problems, circumstances and cares which unfortunately included the enemy trying to do so much as bust car windows during service to intercept the blessings to come; but the people of God would not be stopped. We boarded the Glory Train destined for high holy praise and sent the praises up so high we did not want to come back down.

This train was conducted by our very own First Lady, Missionary Anastasia Richardson who referred all passengers to the information pamphlets hidden in our hearts in case we encountered any issues in our daily travels. She directed us to Psalm 34 where David proclaimed his adamant praise come what may. She admonished us to live our lives the same way. This train was headed full force to glory but we hadn't arrived just yet. Our most capable conductor then told us that there are 3 kinds of praisers: The Because of Praiser, The In Spite of Praiser, and The Crazy Praiser before adding the query, what kind of praiser are you? In case there was any confusion she explained each as follows: The Because of Praiser - Praises the Lord because of what He does for them but fails to utter any adoration when things don't go in their favor. Not to be fooled, the In Spite of Praiser sounds like they're on the right path however they tend to look for the bad just so they can say they praise God no matter what. They're negative opportunists. Oh but the Crazy Praiser - they praise whether they're up or down, high or low, rich or broke, sick or well, they never go a day without praising His name!!!



Once our Conductor let us know that this train was full of Crazy Praisers including herself and that the environment was conducive to crazy praisers the train had reached its destination. The Train stopped at high holy praise but nobody wanted to get off. The congregation experienced small bursts of praise throughout until a wave of crazy praise swept through the place just like the day of Pentecost in the upper room. Our illustrious Superintendent, Pastor David Reed took hold of the microphone and we were doused with another wave of glory. In the midst of our attempts to simmer down Pastor Reed handed the one and only, Second Assistant Pastor Michael Richardson the microphone and in the grand tradition of the benediction asked that everyone raise their right hand to dismiss which went to prove that praise was still in the air. He urged the passengers from the glory train to behave and stop waving their hands and just to raise them so that we could dismiss. That only proved to push the praise. Even after we officially dismissed the praise was still on the people. It was an amazingly spirit filled service that I'm not sure can be duplicated; well not easily so at least. Beautiful service! I admonish you to attend soon and often!



Be Blessed
Submitted by: Sis. Latoya Gipson



To hear an audio of the message visit our website at www.emanuelcogic.com

D. A. REED SR. DISTRICT SKATING EVENTS

On Saturday, April 21st the AIM Committee of the D. A. Reed Sr. District hosted a Premier Outreach Skating Event (“POSE”) at Tinley Park Roller Rink. There was a mixture of all ages that hit the skating floor along with all levels of skaters from amateurs to pros. There were many give-a-ways such as books, movies, gift cards, 3G and 4G phones and a 32” flat screen TV. The Skating event was a great success and everyone had a great time of fun and fellowship during this event.



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I received shoes for every occasion, along with gift cards and love tokens to buy more shoes!

To top off the celebration, a cake was presented along with everyone singing Happy Birthday. After service everyone was served cake and ice cream. What a birthday celebration!! Again I wish to thank the greatest Women’s department anywhere for affording me a joyous celebration. I love each and every one of you and I am forever grateful for all the support that you give to Pastor Richardson and me. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Kisses to all of you!!



D. A. Reed Sr. District

David A. Reed
District Superintendent

Maggie E. Booker
District Missionary

2012 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING



WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW



HOLY GHOST

REVOLUTION

Matthew 3:11

May 14th - 18th 7:30 p.m. nightly



Monday, May 14th
Pre-District Meeting Musical



Tuesday, May 15th
Pastor Michael Richardson
2nd Assistant Superintendent



Wednesday, May 16th
Mother Maggie E. Booker
District Missionary



Thursday, May 17th
Bishop Ocie Booker
Prelate First Jurisdictional IL



Friday, May 18th
Pastor David A. Reed
District Superintendent

Reed's Temple Church

1300 N. Broad St. - Griffith, IN 46319 -219.972.0441

Pastor David A. Reed
District Superintendent

Mother Maggie E. Booker
District Missionary



May 3rd – May 5th



Saturday, May 19th – Noon
State Ministers Wives Alliance
 @ Emanuel Church of God in Christ

Sunday, May 27th



Monday, May 28th
Memorial Day

Saturday, May 5th – 11:00 am
First Jurisdiction IL Woman of the Year Luncheon
 @ Oak Lawn Hilton Hotel
 9333 South Cicero Avenue – Oak Lawn, IL
 Donation \$35.00 – All are Welcome

Sunday, May 28- Friday, June 1st



Sunday, May 6th – 9:00 am
1st Sunday Pastoral Prayer

Monday, May 7th – 7:00 pm
State Fellowship Meeting
 @ Greater St. James Temple COGIC
 2131 Wright Avenue – North Chicago, IL
 Supt. Torrance Markham, Host

Friday, May 11th – 7:30 PM
Greater Holy Temple Church Anniversary
 @ 246 North California – Chicago, IL
 Pastor Lemont Lenox, Host
Pastor Michael Richardson will be the guest speaker



- 1st - Sis. Doris Jordan (Mother)
- 2nd - Sis. Marilyn E. Thomas
- 17th - Melinique Johnson
- 18 - Sis. Turia Neal
- 24 - Alfonz McGowan
- 28 - Sis. Alayna M. Johnson
- 31 - Mo. Louvenia Williams

Sunday, May 13th – Mother's Day
Special Blessing to our Church Mother
Mother Ophelia Turner

Monday - May 14th - 7:30 PM
D. A. Reed Sr. District Pre-Musical
 @ Reed Temple Church of God in Christ
 1300 North Broad – Griffith, IN
 Supt. David Reed, Host



- 20th - Holland & Turia Neal (2008)
- 27th - James & Dewana Hardy (1998)

Sunday, May 15th – 18th – 7:30 PM Nightly
D. A. Reed Sr. Annual District Meeting
 @ Reed Temple Church of God in Christ

EMANUEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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Pastor Michael A. Richardson

