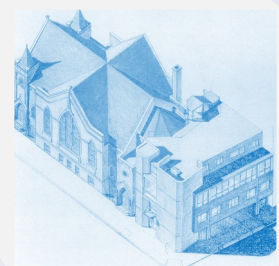


Bronx Baptist Church

THE HOPE NEWSLETTER



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The Hope

2019 - 2020 WINTER EDITION

Reverend Frank I. Williams - Lead Pastor

Reverend Pauline Heslop, MD - Associate Pastor

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Dear Church Family:

The Bible tells us that about two-thousand years ago in Bethlehem to ordinary parents, a Child was born to bring hope to the world. The Almighty God descended from His glory, wrapped Himself in human form and became Immanuel – which means, “God with us.” This event changed everything. Yet, this unprecedented event occurred quietly at night perhaps in a stable. There, Jesus was born, wrapped in cloths, and then place in a manger. I think this reveals to us a key characteristic about God. That God is intentional about identifying with the marginalized, oppressed, the humble, the left out, and the forgotten. God chooses the position of humility and ordinariness over pomp and excessiveness. God chooses the bottom rather than the top - “He made himself of no reputation by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (Philippians 2:7).

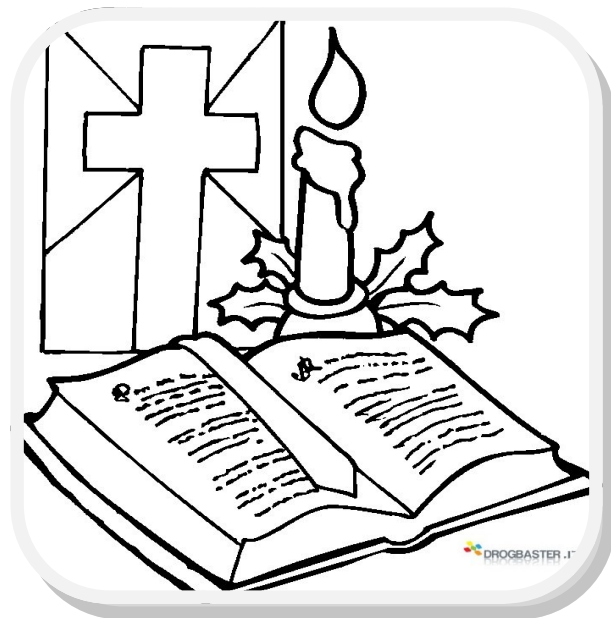
Even in the choice of using the young girl Mary as the one who would carry this God-Child, demonstrates God’s love for the simple and the pure. Great things can emerge from the “mangers” of life. Do not allow your heart to be consumed with despair and loneliness. Seek and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus the Christ in your life, and allow yourself to become a carrier of God’s purposes, not just your own.

God has given us His most precious gift, the gift of His love in Jesus Christ – “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). There is no doubt that God loves humanity; and when we choose to love God, even when we don’t understand it all, we create for ourselves the best reality of all, that is, hope for today and for eternity. In Christ the world has received access to this hope of salvation, this hope of forgiveness, this hope of peace with God, and this hope of eternal life.

May the hope and peace of God fill your homes.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Frank I. Williams





Think on These Things

Reverend Frank I. Williams

Are you ready for the Word!

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Throughout the Scriptures

we see passages encouraging us to give to those who are less fortunate, and to bless those who are in need. In fact, we are told, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35b). I like to call this “thanks-giving,” that is, giving generously to others as an expression of gratitude to God for His provision in our lives.

Paul the Apostle addresses this matter of giving in the main text above. Based on this passage I have identified two realities about giving that would be beneficial for us to understand. They are measurement and manner. The first reality, measurement, is an undeniable law of life – i.e. the law of sowing and reaping. As a young boy I recall my grandmother and mother telling me, you reap what you sow. I knew this phrase from my childhood. It was a remark usually made when I did something that was not very nice. It was used to warn me to be careful how I treat others, and how I think or talk about others. I was reminded that I was planting something that would be reaped later.

We will do well if we allow this principle to coach us through life. Galatians 6:7-10a states, “...whatever a man sows, that he will also reap...let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all.” When I discovered that this principle, which my mother and grandmother instilled in me, was from the Bible and is a law that God Himself established for humanity, I realized how important it was for me to get this right.

Sowing and reaping is not a choice. It is not something that we choose to activate. It is always at work. We are always sowing something, whether we realize it or not. In our main text we see this principle at work and being applied to the area of giving. If we give scantily or stingily, then we have set the measurement standard of how we will reap in that area. If we give generously and even sacrificially then this measurement will be reflected in the time of reaping. This is obviously a measurement of volume and amount. Someone may be thinking; how could anyone have the audacity to tell people what they should do with the money they have earned?

The truth is we are constantly being told what we should do with our money. That is what advertising is all about. That is what branding is all about. Businesses consistently bombard us with information aimed at convincing us to buy their products – from cereal to electronics. As a result, consumers spend billions annually on products and “services” they may not really need.

Our main text offers us a perspective on the use of our financial resources that promises a better “product” than just spending money to get more stuff. It promises that when we give generously to others, rather than only spending on ourselves, we are operating at the best level of the sowing and reaping principle. And the return will be at least just as generous. Jesus also taught this principle of sowing and reaping in Luke 6:38, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” The more you give, the more God will cause you to become a channel of blessings.

The second reality is manner. This addresses “how” you give, and not the amount you give. We are instructed not to give grudgingly nor of necessity. In other words, don’t give with the wrong motive or attitude, because it will sabotage the results, and nullify your reaping potential. To give grudgingly is to give unwillingly, which fosters resentment in your heart. This dismal condition of heart is rebuked by Paul’s conclusive statement, “God loves a cheerful giver.” Now, certainly God loves the world – and all peoples therein. I don’t think Paul is saying that God only loves those who give cheerfully; however, he is communicating essential information about how God thinks about us. I am sure you can relate. Are there people whose ways you really like? You have observed how they act and react to people and life’s circumstances, and you are impressed by their approach and disposition. Well, God makes the same observations in us; and He loves to see the heart that gives, and does it cheerfully.

There is a key question that the keen reader should ask about this text. That is, who monitors this law of sowing and reaping? The law is not conscious. It pertains primarily to the heart, motives, and manner of giving and not just to the math of giving. How is it working? Who is gathering this information on us? God is. He is the only one who can gather this kind of data and administer the appropriate seasons and measurements of reaping. God takes it that seriously. The evidence is clear, God loves generosity; and He loves to increase the generous.

Are you ready to sow generously? Are you ready to give of your surplus or to give sacrificially? Then go ahead and take the plunge; and do it cheerfully. You will be blessed in due season. This is what I call thanks-giving and thanks-living. Until next time, live thankful my friends, and think on these things.



My Dream Encounter with Wynsome Donald Sharpe



I was awakened early Tuesday morning, the day after Wynsome's birthday, by what I thought was someone touching the toes on my left foot. I didn't see the person, only a hand. It wasn't Wyn's hand. The hand was grayish in color and looked chubby in nature. I tried to determine who it was because I wanted it to be her's, Wynsome, so we could interact again even for a moment. Then the dream came flooding into

my consciousness so I got up at once and decided to write it down for fear that I may forget this encounter with the one I love.

In the dream the family was gathered around the dining table in the home of Peter and Stephanie to have prayer before eating. I was positioned at the apex of the semicircle facing the window to the outside yard. At the end of the grace I said Amen, raised my head and open my eyes and there she was. Wynnie was standing outside the window looking in. She was gorgeous: skin like that of a baby, a full head of black curly hair flowing down to her shoulders and wearing a lily-white dress made of lace. My heart stopped momentarily then began racing. What do I do now? I asked myself. Do I break eye contact and run outside to see if she'll be there, or just stand and stare? I'm going to take my chances, I thought, and run outside to meet her. So that's what I did. As I rounded the corner in the backyard, there she was radiant as ever in a white lace form fitting dress. She said nothing, verbally, but her eyes, those eyes were so welcoming. I reached for her. But, I couldn't touch her. She was always out of reach. She kept moving every time I reached for her. I couldn't understand why. This dance went on and on until she was across Atlantic Ave near to my grand-daughter's school and I was on the other side. I decided that this dance had to come to an end now, so I made up my mind to sprint across the road, so I could reach her. I wasn't thinking clearly or, one could say that I wasn't thinking at all, for as I dashed across the road, I was hit by a speeding car and was killed instantly.

The next moment I found myself in the center of a massive ornate, mahogany paneled court room with high cathedral ceilings. Everything in this place was made of mahogany, the judge's platform, the attorneys' tables, the floors and the seating for the spectators.

The court room was packed to capacity. My Wynsome was there also seated in the back row with an expressionless face. Still in her white lace dress and beautifully styled hair.

I was seated at the defendant's table with my 'attorney'. Yes, you guessed it, it was a man whom I took to be Jesus, my advocate. He also wore white, made of linen. He said nothing. He just sat quietly. (Please don't ask me what He looked like). Suddenly I heard my name being called. My 'attorney' remained seated by my side but said nothing. He didn't even look at me. The judge motioned me to step forward. Right then and there I realized what this was, it was the judgment. I would now have to answer for all my indiscretions and those of my wife's. You see, while she was in the hospital dying I prayed to God that if there was anything in her life that would prevent her from entering heaven He was to put them on my account, I

would pay for them. So here I am, in front of the judge, ready to pay what I owe.

Then, the grilling began, and it was relentless. Only two people spoke in the court room, the judge and me. He was merciless, or, so I thought. I was asked about every single indiscretion, major and minor from my childhood to my death in excruciating detail. No 'stone' was left unturned. I had to account for everything. The packed court room sat in utter silence you could hear a pin drop. Wynsome sat motionless and watched as I was, figuratively, verbally disemboweled by the judge. During all of this, Jesus, my advocate, never once said a word or raised an objection in my defense. But its fine, its ok, I thought, I'm glad that the burden of my guilt was all out of me. I'm ready now to pay the price for my sins and those of my wife. I'm ready!

Then the strangest thing happened. The judge got up and walked out of the courtroom, Jesus got up and walked out too, the packed courtroom including Wynsome got up and walked out also, and once again I was alone in this cavernous and ornate court room.

I now feel very confused. I had no idea what was happening. I am ready to pay for my sins and no one is giving me any direction. So, I just stood there in silence. Suddenly, the doors to courtroom opened and in walked a man in overalls pushing a pail and a mop. This seems to be the janitor, I concluded, so I asked him where was everybody? He said that the court proceedings were done for the day.

What! I thought, how can that be, there was no verdict and I know that I'm guilty and was ready to pay the price of my sins. While I was arguing with the janitor, I saw through the corner of my eye the silhouette of someone had appeared in the doorway of the courtroom. I turned to see who it was. It was Wynsome with a glass in her hand. It contained something. I wasn't sure what. It didn't really matter for my focus was on her. Should I go to her, I asked myself? Is she going to move away again?

The pull of her magnetism was too great, so I slowly moved toward her fully expecting her to move out of my reach in the same way she did before in the back yard of my daughter's home. But this time she stood still. She was bathed in brilliant midday sunshine that shone behind her and exposed every detail of her beauty in her form fitting lace dress while she held the container. As I nervously drew closer I could see that it was a drink, something chilled. It was a cold glass of coconut water which she handed to me as I reached her. She didn't move away! Hallelujah! We stood face to face as I drank to my heart's content. She didn't move away!

Instead she locked her eyes with mine then her fingers around mine and held tightly to my hand before leading me outside to the top of the cascading courthouse steps. From there I saw the crowd of waiting family and friends. They were all dressed in white and smiling. The men in linen and the women in lace. Nothing was said verbally. All communication was done with eyes and intuition. It was a large reception group. I remember seeing in the front Winston, Her father, Myrtle, her mother, Minerva, Peter's mother, Ken, my brother, Hugh, her brother and a host of others. This was going to be a wonderful reception. My whole being was bursting with joy.

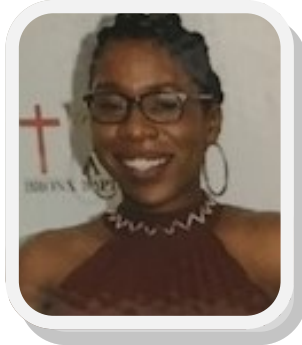
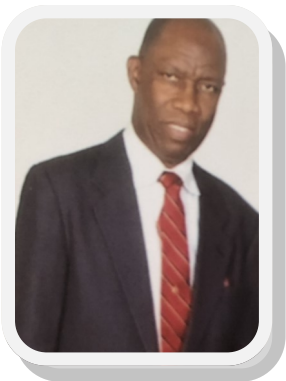
As I descended the courthouse steps moving into the waiting arms of this group of family and friends I looked back over my shoulder up at the court building, not quite sure of what just happened and as I focused on the doorway to the courtroom I saw the janitor, smiling down at us. The janitor, I thought, he looked familiar. He looked like the judge Were they the same person?



Wynnie Sharpe

A Call to Higher Heights and Deeper Depths

By Charles Copeland
Alicia Copeland



"Any man being in Christ becomes a new creature, old things are passed away and behold all things becomes new," this is the experience of the new birth. 2 Corinthian 5:17

Having been exposed to church life from birth and hearing the proclamation of the Word through various mediums should in effect reflect a change at some stages of life.

Hearing the word does not guarantee a secured V. I. P. pass to life eternal. The Word of God is quite explicit in declaring that we must not only be hearers of the Word, but doers. To be doers we must study the Word, so that we can expound truth and be a living testament of the life and teaching of Christ. Individuals learn at a different pace, but the whole idea is, we are not expected to remain at a baby stage or stagnant, but the more we study the Word your life will bear fruit as you press towards the mark of the higher calling. However, the more we study the Word, internal and external challenges will arise, not only as individuals, but as a collective group, called the church.

There are many challenges the church will see, however, one challenge that the church is now facing is the yearning for a revival. As a church, we sadly want to dictate the terms and conditions for this to happen and only God is in control. This is in the Word, the Word we neglect and at times utilize as a last minute resort for resolution and other times, something we just ignore.

If we truly studied the Word of God, we would understand the things that are not in our control, are in God's control. That He is moving and shaping our lives to meet His plans not for us, but for the sake of His plans. Studying the Word, we will understand that God moves in mysterious ways at times. Sometimes He moves in the still, small voice, other times a mighty gushing wind. However, we must prepare ourselves to know His voice when He speaks, feel his presence when He moves and overall, be obedient to His voice. When we are prepared to truly seek, pause, and hear God's words to us, we will then be able to accelerate to higher heights and move beyond deeper depths.

The movement God has in store for us goes beyond just hearing and studying the Word, we must also give thanks. Giving thanks to God, praising Him for the highs and the lows, will allow us to achieve the higher level that God has planned for us. When we look at worship, we need to acknowledge that over time, the act of worship has changed significantly, from blessed quietness to a more participatory form of worship. However one decides to worship, the tone, body and movement, worship should be done with the entire being. A sense of gladness, giving praise and be receptive to let the Holy

Spirit take control- take control to move you and elevate you to higher heights.

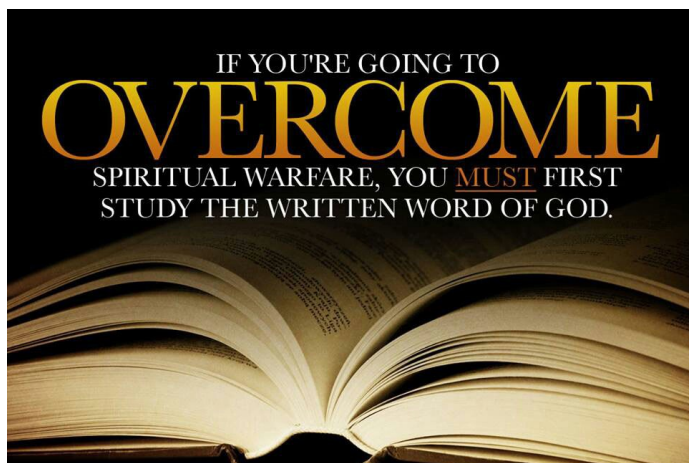
The existence of the church is not dependent on a manmade plan, but the majestic work of the Holy Spirit. There is a desperate call for the church to move to higher heights and deeper depths. Christ is calling the church to come up higher to be hearers of His leading and direction. This experience is not just mere emotions or a feel good moment, but to be in His presence is an experience that we are so longing for as the apostle did on the day of Pentecost. This state can only be accomplished when the body is in one accord and ready to receive the shift in the atmosphere.

As found in the book of Deuteronomy 29 verse 29 "the secret things belong unto the Lord our God but those things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law." It is important that we understand that whatsoever is revealed to us through prophecy is to strengthen our relationship with God- to move us closer to Him, to be in sync with Him, to move in harmony with Him.

God has equipped the church with teachers, preachers, evangelist and prophets for the building up of the saints, to break strongholds and to enable us to fight and discern spiritual warfare. How can we do our roles as the body of the church, if we don't know what role is ordained for us. How can we truly be equipped, if we are unaware of our spiritual trajectory, because we cannot discern the voice of God? Christ ascending into the heavens was more than just Him going back home, it was and is a sign that God is taking us places- only if we obey and listen.

The danger of having a mere form of Godliness but no power allows to be swayed by every wind of Doctrine. We can easily hear the Word and in a twinkling of an eye, it can evaporate and we then lean on our own understanding. We are then consumed in our own self-righteousness and there is no room for the Holy Spirit to take residence in our lives.

It is our duty to let the Word of God dwell richly in our lives that when we enter in His presence the atmosphere will be so electrified with His glory that men will stand in amazement and wonder as we all are elevated to higher heights and breaking barriers within the deepest depths.



Poetry

By Gloria Taylor

Moment

Love in Reality

It was in my dreams I saw you
 So I knew that you'd be mine
 I only had to wait and see
 I only had to wait and see
 If dreams can prove reality
 For though I saw you wind your way
 From my homestead on the hill
 I little thought my love would stay
 We neither seemed that thrilled
 For even when you said in words
 My Dear, I'm sure you will be mine
 It was your actions more than words could say
 That convinced me you would be mine one day.

Land I Love

Every time I return to you
 Land of my noble pride
 I feel endeared to you so much
 It's a love I cannot hide.

Your verdant fields and lofty mountains
 Lend luster to the land I love
 Your majestic flowing streams
 Cascade along the mountain side
 To meet the ever rolling tide

The natives who inhabit your shore
 Some are good, some are bad, they say
 They represent world human kind
 However, my love will always be there to stay

Ode to Autumn

Autumn morning balmy and bright
 Comes to us with sweet delight
 Fallen leaves begin to blow
 As they turn from green to yellow

Birds migrate to warmer weather
 In large flocks they get together
 For better livelihood they hibernate
 Making long journey with their mate

Festive season during this time
 Scary Halloween with Thanksgiving in line
 Shopping for gifts that may be rare
 For Christmas memories we need to share

For man there is rarely a hiding place
 That would satisfy without impending fate
 So, coats pretty warm snug and lights
 We'll button as we venture out tonight

A Smile Cost Nothing

Anonymous

A smile costs nothing, but gives much
 It enriches those who receive it,
 Without making poorer, those who give.
 It takes but a moment,
 But the memory of it
 Sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty,
 That he can get along without it;
 And none is so poor
 But that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home,
 Fosters goodwill in business,
 And is the countersign of friendship.
 It brings rest to the weary.
 Cheer to the discouraged.
 Sunshine to the sad and it is
 Nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet, it cannot be bought, begged
 Borrowed or stolen
 For it is something that is of no value
 To anyone until it is given away.

Some people are too tired to give you a smile
 Give them one of yours
 As none needs a smile so much
 As he who has no more to give.

Mental Health First Aid

Sharon Evans-Gordon

On Saturday, November 23, 2019 a joint group of leaders from Wake Eden Community Baptist Church and Bronx Baptist Church assembled in BBC's Fellowship Hall for a training on Mental Health First Aid.

The training was sponsored by ThriveNYC a program initiated by the First Lady of New York City, Mrs. Chirlane McCray, to assist persons experiencing mental health disorders. Our facilitator for the day was Ms. Egeria, who presented the program to us on behalf of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Ms. Egeria defined Mental Health as, "a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community." On the other hand, she said that mental health illness is a condition that gets in the way of a person's thinking, relating to others, and carrying out normal day-to-day functions. She also said that Mental Health experts rate mental health disorders as among the most disabling of illnesses.

During the training we were told that everyone feels worried, anxious, and/or down from time to time. However, relatively few people develop a mental health disorder. Data has shown that one in five adults will experience a mental health crisis in a given year. These crises include: anxiety, depression, substance abuse, bipolar, eating disorder, schizophrenia and dementia.

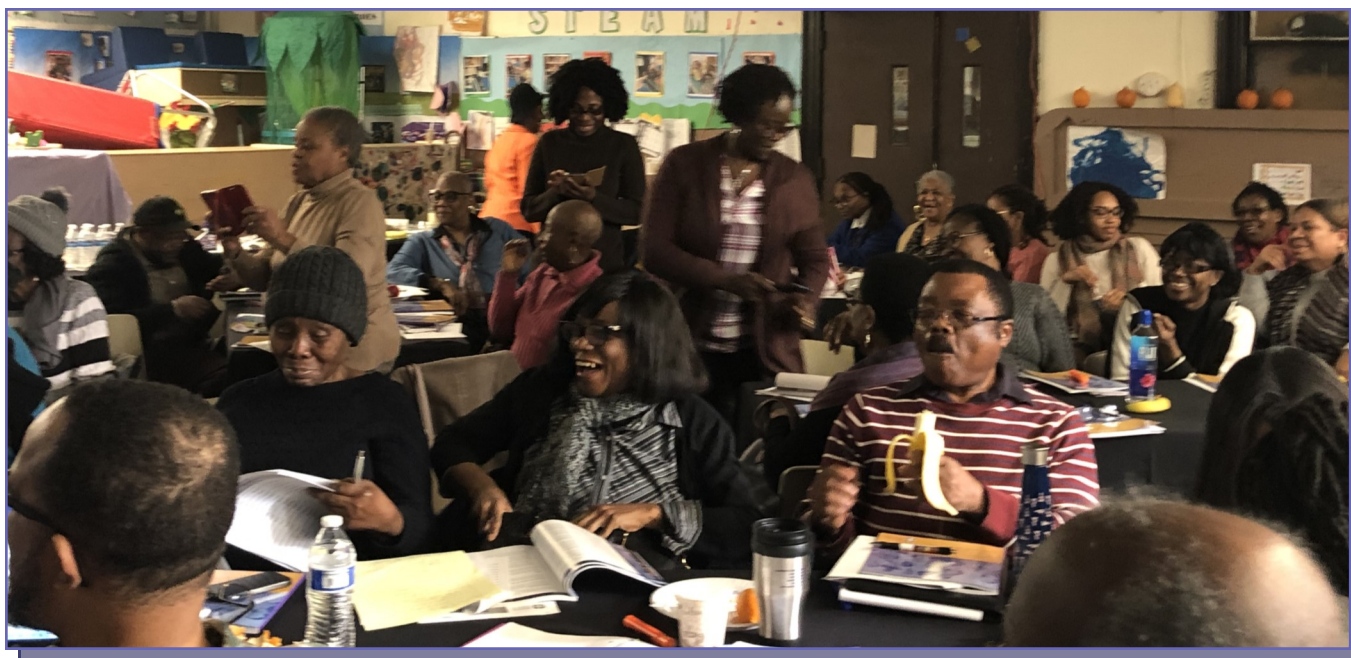
Workshop participants were given useful tools to help deal with persons whom they came in contact with who may be experiencing some form of mental health disorder. Examples of tools include: Being a good listener. Do not interrupt when the person is speaking. Choose the right time and place to speak with the person. Stick to the facts and avoid exaggeration. In addition to the tools, participants were also provided with information about available programs for anyone who needed help. Programs were also targeted for those particularly at risk. Early intervention programs were designed for people with a mental health disorder. It is during this early intervention phase that Mental Health First Aid can play an important role.

She helped to dispel some of the myths associated with Mental Health. Some of these myths include:

- ◆ People with Mental Health Disorder are usually violent.
- ◆ People with Mental Health cannot hold down a job as they cannot deal with the stresses that comes with a job.
- ◆ There is no hope for people with Mental Health Illness.

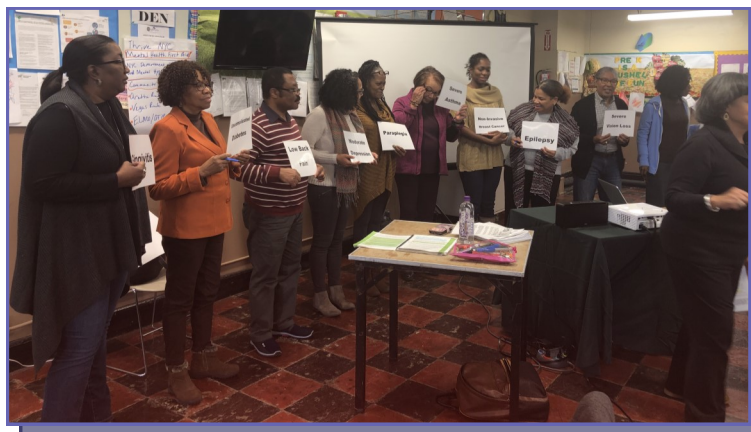
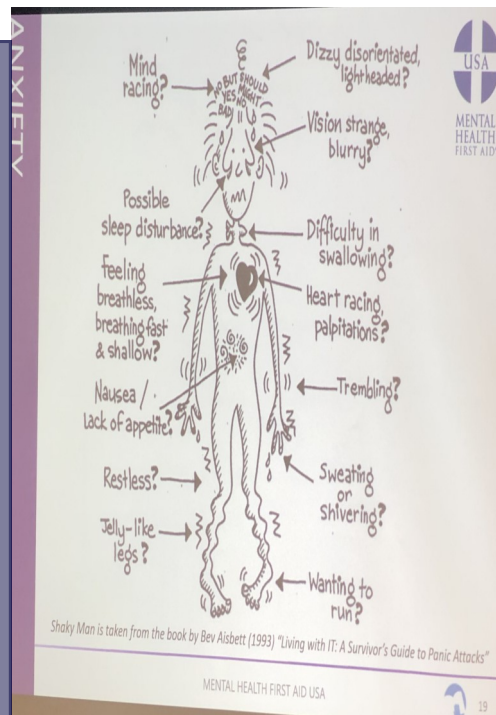
Ms. Egeria encouraged us to employ some of the tools to better cope with someone experiencing a crisis.

Overall this was a necessary and important training. We learned that Mental Health illness is an equal opportunity issue. It affects young and old, male and female, and individuals of every race, ethnic background, education level, and income level. The good news is that with the right treatment the affected person can lead a healthy lifestyle.

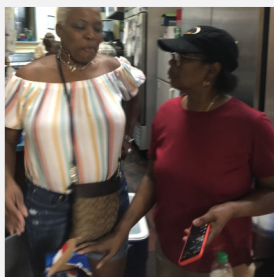


Mental Health Awareness Training

Sharon Evans-Gordon



Health Fair 2019



You know you're getting old when ...

Sharon Evans-Gordon

- You can't decide whether to let the wet paper towel dry for re-use, or throw it away.
- You still store your dishes and glasses in a china cabinet in your dining room.
- You step off the curb sideways.
- You still prefer to print out directions from Mapquest when you are traveling.
- You refer to your knees as the good one and the bad one instead of the left and right.
- People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- Your children begin to look middle aged
- You begin every sentence with "Nowadays."
- You are proud of your membership with AARP.
- Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- It takes two tries to get up from the couch.
- You and your teeth don't sleep together.
- You say something to your kids that your mother always say to you and you hated it.
- You have a party and the neighbors didn't even know you did.
- You turn out the lights for economic, rather than romantic reasons.

“Do not regret growing older. It's a privilege denied to many.”

(Unknown)

57th Anniversary Service



LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION.

- Is it OK to have someone in leadership who has not yet made a commitment to Christ?
- Is it OK to include into membership an unmarried couple that lives together?
- Is it OK to have an openly gay/transgender person minister to the members?
- Is it OK to evaluate the church's traditions to see whether or not they fit in with the current culture?
- Is it OK to focus more about judgment and hell or should we talk more about God's love and His redeeming grace?
- Is it OK to have the Sunday morning service geared more towards attracting seekers than strengthening saints?
- Is it OK to stray away from the church's program to include impromptu testimonies during the Main Worship Service?
- Is it OK for the Church to enforce the time protocols that have been put in place for Worship Service?
- Is it OK to plan Church Meetings on special Sundays like Mother's Day and Father's Day?
- Is it OK for people who are not steadfast in their faith to lead a Bible Study group?
- Is it OK for members who do not tithe to hold offices in the church?

What are your thoughts?

Submitted by

Sharon Small

Recipe for Toto:

Ingredients

3 cups All-purpose flour
 1 1/2 cups Brown sugar
 1 1/2 cups Desiccated (unsweetened) or freshly grated coconut
 3 tsp Baking powder
 1 tsp Baking soda
 1/2 tsp Allspice
 1/2 tsp Nutmeg
 1 tsp Ground ginger
 1/2 tsp Salt
 1/2 cup Raisins (optional)
 2 Eggs, well beaten
 2 cups Milk
 1/2 cup Butter, melted
 1 tsp Vanilla Extract (optional)
 1 Tbsp Jamaican rum (optional)

Mix and bake at 350 for 30-45 minutes or until inserted knife comes out clean
 Best served warm

Women' Ministry

Through the love of God which has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, the Bronx Baptist Church Women's Ministry participants were blessed with times of growing in the love of Christ, as well as with opportunities to spread the love of Christ, throughout the October 2018 - September 2019 church year.

Our times of fellowship included a seminar on "Let Food Be Your Medicine", led by our own Reverend Pauline Heslop, M.D., and Registered Dietitian Rhona Thompson. The men joined us as we learned the importance of healthy eating to keep our bodies - the temples of the Holy Spirit, in optimal health.

The women engaged in food distribution to community residents and also prepared warm meals for them to eat on the premises or to take home. The Women's Ministry joined the Evangelism Committee in community evangelism and prayer walk as well.

Sister Renée Trewick, the Stewardship Unit Director, challenged Bronx Baptist Church's men and women at a seminar, entitled "Debt Free Living: A Biblical Perspective" with strategies for how to best shepherd the finances God has blessed us with.

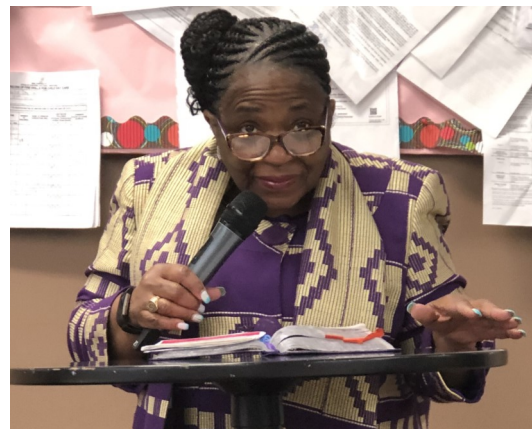
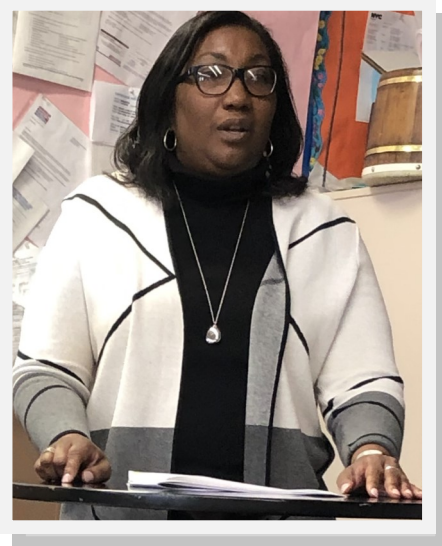
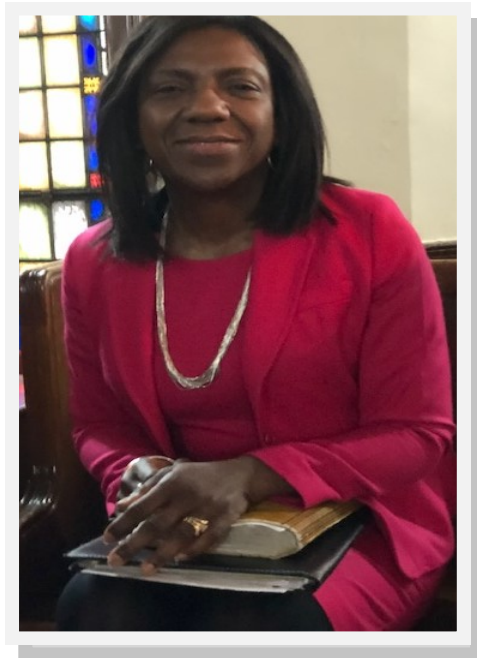
With the intent of being a blessing, the Women's Ministry participants were truly blessed when in groups of two, three and four, we visited, ministered to and fellowshiped with our sick and shut-in brother and sisters in Christ.

We are thankful to God for the opportunity we had to express our appreciation for our male Pastors and brothers in Christ, and to honor them at a Brunch on Father's Day.

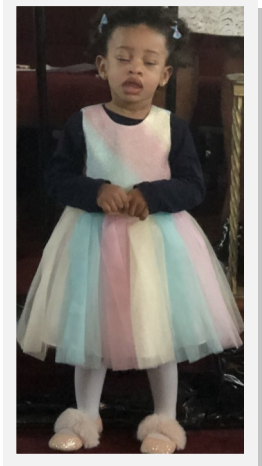
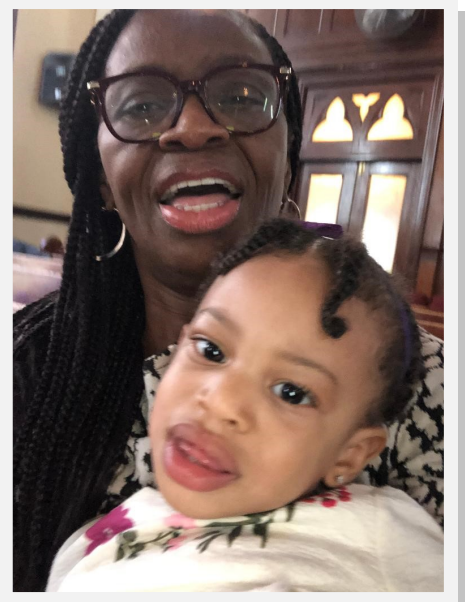
The Women's Ministry led the Bronx Baptist Church services during Women's History Month, as well as on Mother's Day.

During our Women's Retreat, we enjoyed a rich time of fellowship in the Holy Spirit and with one another. God blessed us with teachings from Reverend Williams' and Reverend Dr. Heslop's Seminary professor The Right Reverend Dr. Barbara Etta Austin Lucas. She was our Guest Speaker on the theme: "Walking in the Fullness of Christ." We were also blessed by the presence of Wake-Eden Baptist Church and Honeywell Baptist Church Women's Ministry members.

Vivienne Uruakpa



Women's Ministry Activities



The Desperate yet Determined Woman

Sharon Evans-Gordon



In a sermon preached by Reverend Frank Williams recently, he referenced his message from 1 Samuel 1: 1-8 in which he titled, **“Hearing Hannahs”**

In the message from 1 Samuel, Elkanah, a man from Ramah, had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah was unable to conceive, which caused her great sadness. Elkanah showed preferential treatment toward Hannah and so treated her with greater compassion. However, with all the affection he devoted to her, she remained sad, feeling empty and discouraged because of her inability to conceive a child. Instead of being sympathetic towards Hannah’s plight, Peninnah took advantage of the situation and made it her mission to make Hannah’s life miserable. As stated by Reverend Williams, polyamorous relationships can be complicated.

Elkanah inadvertently created and facilitated a very difficult situation for the women in his life. One could bear children which would reap his inheritance and carry on his legacy, while the other whom he cherished, the love of his life, was unable to have any children. This was the perfect recipe for a prolonged emotional ‘storm’ in Hannah’s life. The last thing we need when we are in pain is to have someone gloat about their success or to rub ‘salt’ in our emotional wounds. This was Hannah’s experience.

Hannah needed to have a child. She desperately wanted to be a mother and even though the odds were stacked against her, Hannah never gave up. Instead she prayed relentlessly to God. She cried out to God in her desperation for Him to enable her to have a child. If God would only help her to conceive, she promised she would give the child back to Him. But to no avail. Still in her desperation and determination, Hannah wept and prayed.

“Hannah, why do you weep”, her husband Elkanah asked who seemed perplexed about the unhappy demeanor of his wife. He went on to engage her: “And why won’t you eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?” Elkanah’s questions, though well-meaning seem to be out of touch with the deep cultural dilemma. And though she doesn’t say so, he isn’t the cause of her deep sadness. It’s a different kind of love a woman has for her husband than she has for her children, and one can never completely replace the other. A woman’s love is compartmentalized in her brain.

Out of the context of profound pain, Hannah had to live with endless antagonism in the same space as her rival, Peninnah. Even though she suffered emotionally, Hannah did not fight back. She did not run away. She simply did not give up. Though desperate she was determined and continued praying earnestly to God.

Hannah relied on her faith and even though the odds seemed to be against her, and despite her pain, and being mistaken as being drunk while praying quietly by Eli the priest, Hannah never stopped calling out to God. Eventually Hannah was released from her pain. God released her from her infertility, and she conceived and gave birth to a son whom she called Samuel.

In the end we see that Hannah’s determination paid off. She never gave up and God ultimately exalted and vindicated her.

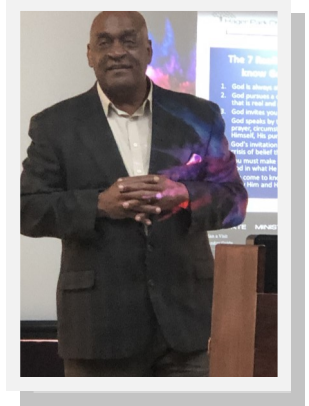
Can we take a page from Hannah’s book and pray relentlessly to God so He can release us from our pain or are we so eager for a quick fix that we resort to self help?





Spiritual Leadership

Sharon Evans-Gordon



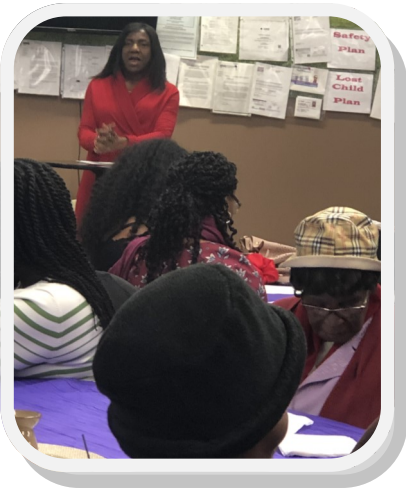
At a leadership training held at the church for all officers and deacons on Saturday, November 9, 2019, Rev. Gary Frost suggested the following points to ruminate on:

- ◆ Society longs for statesmen, but it gets politicians.
- ◆ People can accomplish all of their goals and still not be successful in God's kingdom.
- ◆ Spiritual leadership is moving people on to God's agenda.
- ◆ Leaders blame their followers when they don't do what they should do.
- ◆ God's concern is not to advance leaders' dreams and goals or to build their kingdoms.
- ◆ Jesus did not develop a plan nor did he cast a vision. He sought His Father's will.
- ◆ Ultimately, leadership is more about "being" than about "doing."
- ◆ Any strategy for developing spiritual leaders must take into account those emerging leaders currently in their pre-teens.
- ◆ So many of history's great leaders suffered major failures, crises, and disappointments in their development as leaders that these traumas almost seem a prerequisite to their leadership success.
- ◆ God can use adversity to build certain qualities deep within one's character that could not be fully developed in any other way.
- ◆ No experience, good or bad, is ever wasted.
- ◆ God's assignments are always based on character- the greater the character, the greater the assignment.
- ◆ The danger is in believing that human reasoning can build the kingdom of God. It cannot.
- ◆ The world functions by vision; God's people live by revelation.
- ◆ The problem with many organizations is that they ask their people to make great sacrifices on behalf of puny visions.



Women's Prayer Breakfast

Sharon Evans-Gordon



The weather was unsettling, the morning was damp and dreary but that was no deterrent to the almost 100 women from Honeywell Baptist, Bronx Baptist and Wake Eden Community Baptist Churches. These women and some men assembled in the church's fellowship hall on Saturday, December 14, 2019 to pray and commune with each other. The event was a joint sponsorship by Honeywell and Bronx Baptist churches and the focus was centered around the theme, "Broken for Anointing."

The day started with a choice of prayer stations where parishioners prayed for the many situations listed. This was followed by welcome and praise and worship.

The highlight of the Prayer Breakfast was the message given by the main speaker, Pastor Anita Ansah from New Jersey. Her message was on, "The Lady with the Alabaster Box." She pointed out that in the case of the Alabaster Box, in the Jewish tradition the lady comes out with the Alabaster Box with expensive perfumes and oils. Once she breaks the box it means she has accepted the man's offer to marry him. In the case Mary Magdalene, she was very close to Jesus Christ and she gave him her all. She broke her Alabaster and used the perfume to anoint the feet of Jesus and then used her hair to wipe it. All she had was her Alabaster Box. She also

noted that sometimes the process of breaking the box was necessary as without breaking there is no acceptance or anointing.

She urged us to live a life of sacrifice. She said that even though, not everyone has an Alabaster Box with expensive perfume, but sometimes all we have is our lives and that can be our Alabaster where we give of ourselves to Jesus Christ.

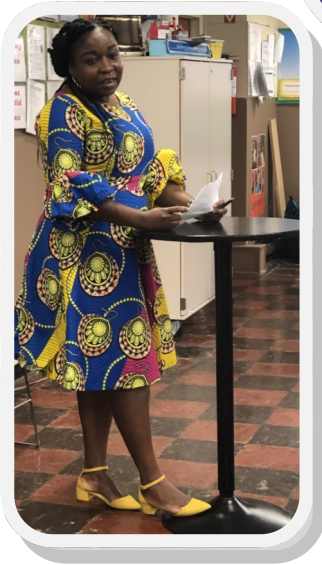
We should live a life of conviction and not a life of convenience. She also highlighted the following points:

1. Without intimacy there can never be an outpouring. Out of the abundance of the heart there is action. We cannot entice God with our words without action.
2. Without sacrifice, there is no anointing. Real brokenness comes at a place of prayer. Jesus needed a different level of anointing.
3. Is anyone among you sick?* He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Christ is your only option. When we pray we must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person is double-minded in all they do. James 1: 6-8



She urged us not to be afraid to break out of our Alabaster Box as when we live a sacrificial life then people should know. She also reiterated that we should live a life of conviction and not a life of convenience.





**Prayer
Breakfast**



Books of the Bible and the Key Verses

Old Testament

Submitted by Yvonne Castello

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Genesis 1:1 | Book of the Beginnings |
| 2. Exodus 12:23 | Book of Departure from Egypt |
| 3. Leviticus 19:2 | Book of Atonement |
| 4. Numbers 33:1 | Book of Pilgrimage |
| 5. Deuteronomy 6:5 | Book of Preparation for Possession |
| 6. Joshua 21: 44-45 | Book of Conquest and Settlement |
| 7. Judges 21:25 | Book of Declension and Apostasy |
| 8. Ruth 4: 14 | Book of Disloyalty, Loyalty and Royalty |
| 9. 1 Samuel 10:25 | Book of the People's King |
| 10. 11 Samuel 5:12 | Book of God's King |
| 11. 1 Kings 11:13 | Book of Division of the Kingdom |
| 12. 11 Kings 10:10 | Book of the Captivities |
| 13. 1 Chronicles 15:2 | Book of David's Reign |
| 14. 11 Chronicles 15:2 | Book of Israel's final Apostasy |
| 15. Ezra 1:5 | Book of the Returning Remnant |
| 16. Nehemiah 1: 8-9 | Book of Consolidation and Conclusion |
| 17. Esther 4:14 | Book of Divine Providence |
| 18. Job 23:10 & 13:15 | Book of Suffering and Patience |
| 19. Psalm 29: 2& 95:1 | Book of Devotion and Praise |
| 20. Proverbs 4:23, 8:13a | Laws of Heaven for Life Upon Earth |
| 21. Ecclesiastes 1: 2-3 | Book of Ancient Wisdom for Modern Man |
| 22. Songs of Solomon 6:13 | Book of Heavenly Love |
| 23. Isaiah 53:5 | Book of the Evangelical Prophet. |
| 24. Jeremiah 2:19 | Book of Horror and Hope |
| 25. Lamentation 1:1 | Book of Tears |
| 26. Ezekiel 1:1 | Book of Glory Lost and Regained |
| 27. Daniel 2: 44a. 7:14 | Book of Loyalty and Light |
| 28. Hosea 13: 9-10 | Book of the Backslider |
| 29. Joel 2: 12-14,32 | Book of God's Severity and Goodness |
| 30. Amos 7:8 | Book of the Plumb line |
| 31. Obadiah 1:15 | Book of Doom for Anti Semitics |
| 32. Jonah 3:2 | Book of God's Mercy |
| 33. Micah 1:2 | Book of Doom and Glory |
| 34. Nahum 1: 1-27 | Book of Perversity and Penalty |
| 35. Habakkuk 2:4 | Book of the Mysteries of Providence |
| 36. Zephaniah 1:12 | Book of Wonder and Wrath |
| 37. Haggai 1:8 | Book of the Builders |
| 38. Zechariah 1:3 | Book of the Future |
| 39. Malachi 4:2 | Book of Denunciation and Hope |

Our Graduates - Another Milestone Achieved:



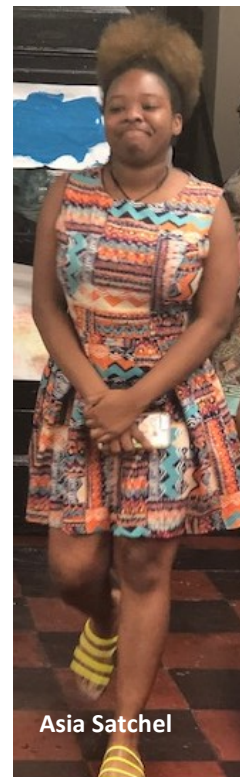
Chelsea Melvin



Domonique Denton



Trishawn



Asia Satchel



Daeshawn Harris



Timothy Williams



Juan Filand

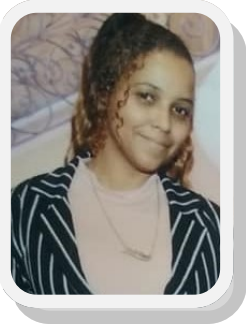


Brooklyn



Ten Ways to Keep Your Child Learning

Rachel Aulet-McGann, MSED



Ten Ways to Extend Your Child's Learning at Home

By Rachel Aulet-McGann, MSED

Learning is not something that happens only at school, but at home as well. Research shows that engaging learning activities that take place outside of school can help to increase the vocabulary and background knowledge needed to scaffold learning inside of the classroom. These are some fun, engaging and easy activities that you can do with your child to help facilitate learning at home.

1. **Encourage Writing Activities**

Even if your child is too young to write, emergent writing skills can be integrated into everyday activities. Shopping lists for a real or imagined supermarket trip can be drawn or dictated. Older children can be encouraged to write thank you notes or keep a gratitude journal.

2. **Open-ended craft activities**

A shoe-box filled with various craft supplies can keep your children engaged, allow them to express their creativity and have the added bonus of having a finished product. These projects can be keepsakes to enjoy for years to come.

3. **Cooking Activities**

Cooking integrates a large number of skills for all ages. Smaller children can measure and stir, while older ones can read the recipe and multiply or divide the ingredients to fit the number of people intended to be served. Cooking is also a great bonding activity for you and your child.

4. **Field Trips**

Field trips give your child the opportunity to see and learn about new things in a more holistic way. These trips can be to museums, zoos and other cultural institutions or to neighborhood businesses and parks. Even a routine trip to the supermarket can be an educational experience for your child as they follow lists, count items and participate in the financial transaction. Field trips foster opportunities to engage in real-world experiences and make real-life connections.

5. **Indoor Forts**

This fun, free activity has multiple benefits. It facilitates planning, problem solving, teamwork and creative and imaginative play. Forts can also provide a place for children to read, draw or engage in dramatic play.

6. **Educational Websites**

While these should be used in moderation, online games and educational websites do have their benefits. Among these are the increase of memory capacity, the development of hand-eye coordination, computer and simulation fluency, problem-solving skills and specific skill building. Some well-known educational websites for younger children include:

- ABCmouse.com
- PBSkids.org
- Jumpstart.com
- Starfall.com

7. **Family Game Nights**

Whether it be board games such as Trouble© and Monopoly©, or DIY games like charades and pictionary, family game nights are not only a way to unite the whole family, but build skills such as critical thinking, deductive reasoning, and vocabulary. In addition to the development of these academic skills, social skills are also enhanced as communication and good sportsmanship are practiced.

8. **Set Goals**

Goal setting presents the perfect opportunity to discuss areas of improvement. While this activity may not be appropriate for younger kids, children can benefit from this experience as early as seven years of age. Goal setting increases resolve and fosters willpower.

9. **Dance**

Dance has not only physical benefits such as increased flexibility, range of motion, strength and stamina, but also helps improve cognitive functions such as memory and attentiveness. Children express creativity and learn about their bodies through dance. Furthermore, the use of different genres and types of dance can help develop cultural awareness. Most importantly, it is fun.

10. **Read Every Day**

One of the most important ways to extend learning is to read every day. Reading boosts intelligence, increases empathy and reduces stress. Reading is also a way for adults and children to bond when the experience is shared.

There are many ways that learning can be fostered during the time that your child is out of school. The above activities can expand your child's vocabulary and background knowledge, foster curiosity and creativity and increase their ability to problem solve. This can, in turn, enhance their in-school learning abilities.

Welcome

Pastor Frank Williams welcomes new member Valerie Wallace and the new officers for the church year 2019 – 2020. We pray that everyone will have a successful year.



Join The Men's Ministry on their trip to Sight and Sound, PA to see Queen Esther. Get your tickets now from Deacon Charles Copeland.

Books of the Bible (Cont'd)

New Testament

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Matthew 1:1 | Book of Christ – The King |
| 2. Mark 10:45 | Book of Christ - The Servant |
| 3. Luke 19:10 | Book of Christ – The Perfect Man |
| 4. John 20:31 | Book of Christ – The Son of God |
| 5. Acts 1:8 | Book of Christian Actions |
| 6. Romans 1: 16-17 | Book of the Epistle of Faith |
| 7. 1 Corinthians 2: 7-8 | Book of the Epistle of Gifts |
| 8. 11 Corinthians 4:5 | Book of A Minister’s Heart |
| 9. Galatians 2:16 | Book of Christian Liberty |
| 10. Ephesians 1:3 | Book of the Epistle of Fullness |
| 11. Philippians 2:5 | Book of Paul’s Joy Letter |
| 12. Colossians 2: 9-10 | Book of Christ’s Pre-Eminence |
| 13. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 | Book of the Epistle of the Rapture |
| 14. 11 Thessalonians 2:13-14 | Book of Christ’s Second Coming |
| 15. 1 Timothy 3: 14-15 | Book of Advice to Ministers |
| 16. 11 Timothy 2: 15 | Book of Paul’s Final Message. |
| 17. Titus 1:5, 3:5 | Book of Advice to Pastors and Churches |
| 18. Philemon 16 | Book of Original Emancipation Proclamation |
| 19. Hebrews 1:3, 11: 1,40 | Book of Shadows and Substance |
| 20. James 2: 20, 26 | Book of Practical Christianity |
| 21. 1 Peter 1:6-7. 4:12-13 | Book of Christian Discipline |
| 22. 11 Peter 3:2 | Book of Christian Diligence |
| 23. 1 John 5:13 | Book of the Epistle of Knowledge and Assurance |
| 24. 11 John 6 | Book of the Epistle of Love and Truth |
| 25. 111 John 4,8 | Book of the Epistle of Christian Hospitality |
| 26. Jude v.24 | Book of the Epistle to Remedy Apostasy |
| 27. Revelation 1:19 | Book of Final Consummation. |

Submitted by

Yvonne Castello

Bible Word Search

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.

WORD SEARCH

Difficulty: 2

Bible Characters

G Y S S S P L L K U S B O P J J U E R N
 Q H V P X B X J R N W G I L J H D Q O X
 L U H B G T U O U G O O C C Q I Y Z J I
 O K C F R H N U S O M C L H C Y C I X U
 R B H A T A M F J A Z R A Q O A H K L G
 P G C O I N V Y F U M J B J Q O E E F C
 C L H S S N C N C F I S Y C E R B W Y E
 H J V Z A A W A L L S R O C V A U L H N
 R N C Y A H R D E E K Z U N E T D Z V H
 I Z V D C Z S A N N A Q D S V P W Z A Z
 S E Z Q Z X C M P E K H X H E C M K L F
 T S Z M X F O Y A K H Y T Q N O E R K S
 B A C W O H F O B Y K U K B K B E H M X
 G Q M O S E S J R F R F N Q E Y H G I P
 D E I U K P C C A D V U A R E J P J L J
 F A S V D Q M F H U H L O E S X F E M R
 F V N T H A L J A C O B M O A H H L Z F
 U U Q I H K V F M V T J I L U C B L J E
 G M D N E E V I W J A W E Q A I R A H N
 N X R W I L R O D R J F J R I U B I P F

RUTH LEAH HANNAH DAVID

REBEKAH ABEL DANIEL RACHEL

EVE NAOMI ISAAC JACOB

ELIJAH SAMSON CHRIST ABRAHAM

ADAM ESTHER MOSES ESAU

Completed By: _____

Ingathering 2020

The Deacons' Ministry



**LET'S HELP
PURCHASE A
NEW CHURCH
VAN**

“Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread [...] And the feast of harvest, the first fruits of thy labors, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labors out of the field.” (Exodus 23: 15 & 16)

This Church year, the Capital Campaign Team in collaboration with the Deacons' Ministry is leading the Church in a fundraising effort to enable the Finance Ministry to purchase a bus, pay off the mortgage and meet other urgent financial challenges.

The launching of this fundraising effort was held on December 7th during a General Cells' meeting and was well very attended. Members present at the meeting resolved to support this fundraiser and pledged to contribute generously to the in-gathering. We are appealing to all members, their family members and friends to participate actively in this fundraising effort.

In the course of this church year, there will be periodic Cells' meetings to enable members make installment contributions and make it easier for everyone to fulfill their pledge. Please contact your deacon and pledge your financial support, if you have not yet done so. No contribution will be considered too large or too small, as every pledged amount will move us closer to our goals: the purchase of a church bus; paying down the mortgage; meeting outstanding financial challenges.

Remember the words of faith we learned from our founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Samuel G. Simpson: “Not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.”

BLACK CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND FAMILY CONFERENCE

July 20-24, 2020

LifeWay.com/BlackChurchLife

2020 BLACK CHURCH LEADERSHIP & FAMILY CONFERENCE

**Challenged
2 LOVE**

Mark 12:30-31

The Day Care Children Christmas Showcase 2019

On Friday, December 13, 2019, the Bronx Baptist Day Care & Learning Center held its Winter Showcase to an audience of family, friends and Bronx Baptist Church members. The Day Care staff, with the assistance of Sister Jean Fagan, worked diligently to prepare this lovely display of the children's talents. The concert, which serves as a fundraiser for the Day Care, included a video montage highlighting the numerous activities of the children in the center. The performance was received with a mixture of pride, laughter and tears of joy, as families were able to view the growth in their children since the beginning of the school year.

The Day Care would like to extend its warmest thanks to the members of the Bronx Baptist Church who not only helped

to make the concert a success through attendance and contributions, but who continuously support us throughout the year.



Bronx Baptist Church

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JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Sharon Evans-Gordon

Donald Sharpe

Alicia Copeland

To ALL the writers, editors, and contributors to this Edition of The Hope Newsletter, **THANK YOU!** Your thoughtful contributions and submissions have made this edition worthwhile reading.

We look forward to your continued support as we seek to produce more informative and meaningful newsletters.

Mission Statement

To make disciples who communicate Christ, influence the culture, and impact the community.

