



3375 Church Lane Duluth GA 30096 Rev. Ronald L. Bowens, Pastor



July 2020

FRIENDSHIP'S VOICE Vol. 8, Issue 7

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JULY

3 Independence Day Observed 20-24 Vacation Bible School on Zoom

AUGUST

- 1 Sis. Debbie Bowens' Birthday
- 11 Primary Runoff Election
- 12 School Starts

For current and updated information, please go to our website at www.fbcduluth.org. Stay connected via YouTube and subscribe to our channel. Stay safe.

OBEDIENCE

Obedience in the dictionary can be broken down as simple compliance, dutifulness, respect, discipline, conformity or submissiveness. God's definition of Obedience relates to hearing or hearkening to a higher authority or positioning oneself under someone by submitting to their authority and command.

Because of disobedience, Saul was rejected as king because he failed to utterly destroy the Amalekites, instead, he chose to keep the best of the best for himself and to offer sacrifice to God. God did not want his sacrifice; he wanted his obedience.

I Samuel 15:22 - But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. This means we have to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and his Word.

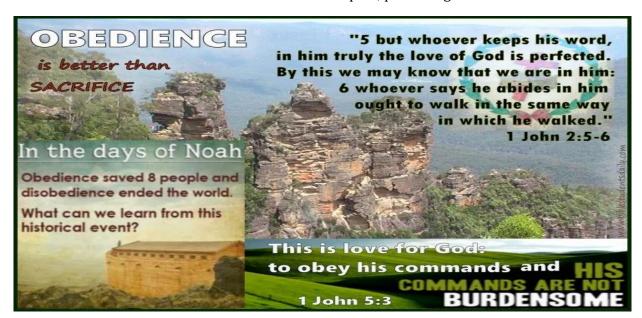
Reasons for Obedience:

- 1. **Jesus calls us to Obedience** John 14:15, If you love me, you will keep my commandments
- 2. **Obedience is an Act of Worship** Our works cannot make us righteous but because of the Grace the Lord has extended to us, obedience should be flowing from our hearts out of gratitude. Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
- 3. **God Rewards Obedience** Genesis 22:18, "And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me."

(cont'd next page)

(Obedience cont'd)

- 4. **Obedience to God Proves our Love** 1st and 2nd John shows that obedience to God demonstrates love for God. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:2–3) and doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another just as you heard from the beginning (2 John 6).
- 5. **Obedience to God demonstrates our Faith** When we obey God, we show our trust and faith in Him: And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did (1 John 2:3–6).
- 6. **Obedience is better than sacrifice** 1 Samuel 15:22-23 But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So, because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."
- 7. **Disobedience leads to sin and death** The disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world but Christ's perfect obedience restores fellowship with God for everyone who believes in Him. Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" and I Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."
- 8. **Through Obedience we experience the Blessings of Holy Living** Jesus was the only perfect one who walked sinless and in perfect obedience. As we spend more time with God through his Word, Fellowship and Worship, the Holy Spirit will transform us from within as we can grow in holiness. Obedience should be a lifestyle for us. 2 Corinthians 7:1 "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."



Happy Birthday!

Let's show expressions of Love Celebrating Sis. Debbie Bowens

August 1st

With cards, monetary gifts, gift cards or whatever the Lord places on your hearts.

Please send to: Debbie Bowens 677 Scales Road Suwanee, GA 30024





Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all your prayers. Be alert and watch with purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints. Eph 6:18





REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-IN WITH PRAYER AND CALLS WHILE THE

SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER REMAINS IN EFFECT

Bro. Willie Benton
Min. Karen Blacknell
Rev. Kenneth Blacknell
Dea. Willie Blake
Sis. Joyce Brooks
Sis. Sherie Brown
Bro. Dwayne Bynum
Bro. Nicholas Caldwell
Sis. Sherita Caldwell
Bro. Tyler Caldwell
Sis. Nekka Dean
Sis. Doris Doyle

Sis. Essie Foy
Sis. Marlon German
Sis. Barbara Hall
Sis. Crystal Ingram
Sis. Charlotte Hayes
Bro. Emanuel Hazell
Sis. Dorothy Jamison
Bro. Patrick Jones
Miss Quincie Joyner
Bro. Dennis Kimmey
Sis. Mabel Lawrence
Dea. Jack Leverett

Bro. Laceem McCall
Sis. Roxanne Motley
Evg. Valerie Montaque
Sis. Gloria Peters
Bro. Garvin Potts
Sis. Catherine Pressley
Sis. Carrie Rawls
Sis. Peggy Rogers
Dea. Clarence Slaughter
Bro. Antone Smith
Sis. Latisha Smith
Sis. Valerie Smith

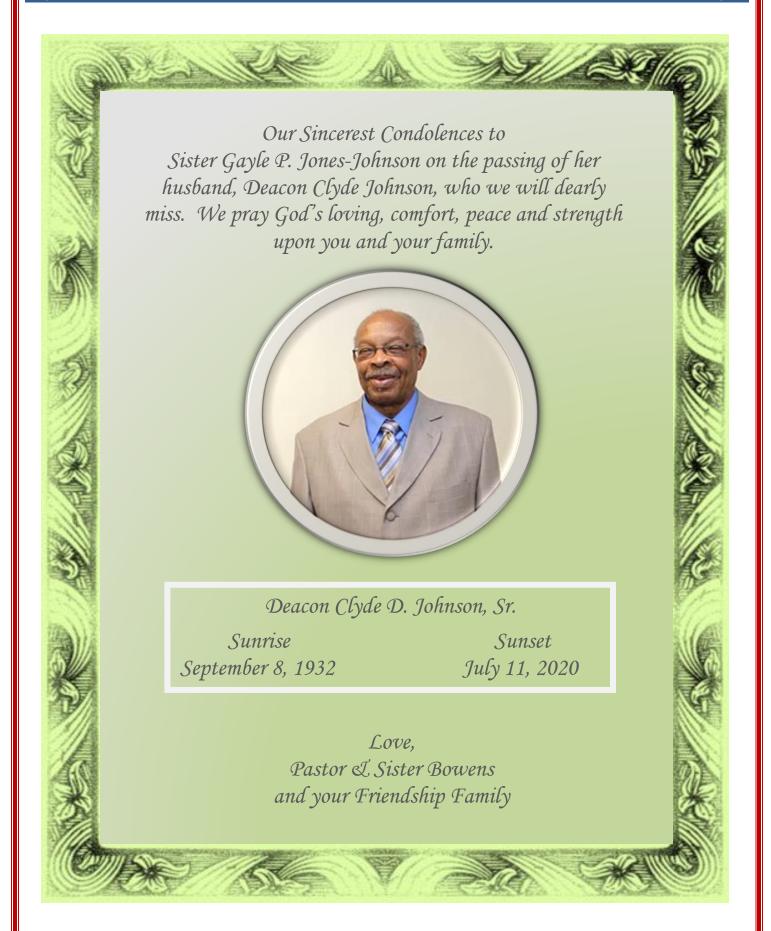
Bro. Xavier Stephens Sis. Tiffany Stovall Sis. Mabel Thomas Bro. Seth Tyler Sis. April Walker Rev. Dwight Wilkerson Min. Floyd Williams Dea. Clendon Wilson Sis. Sadie Wilson Bro. Victor Winston, Jr.



If you need prayer, dial

866-875-8245

Prayer changes things.







GriefShare Ministry Leader Minister Karen L. Blacknell 678-896-1441 Karen83052@gmail.com

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, a child, family member or friend.

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. The support group is led by caring people who have experienced grief themselves and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

The GriefShare Ministry has received the necessary GriefShare training to be able to provide a warm, caring and comfortable environment to those experiencing the pain of grief. Training is key for effective ministry. GriefShare provides ongoing training to the support group in order to continue to build and maintain a strong leadership team.

Due to the pandemic and sheltering-in-place, GriefShare now meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm via conference call. If interested in joining us, please dial 701-802-5331 and enter access code 2098635#. You must first register with GriefShare. To register, please call Minister Karen Blacknell at 678-896-1441.

The GriefShare Ministry support group members are: Minister Karen L. Blacknell, Rev. Kenneth M. Blacknell, Rev. Garfield Garner, Minister Amelia Brown, Minister Barbara Williams, Sis. Sandra Williams, Sis. Linda Berry, Sis. HaLynn Brown, Mother Gerald Baker, Mother Dorothy Blagmon, Sis. Tyesaha Peak-Lane, Sis. Tradenia Hill, Sis. Cortney Garner, Sis. Hyacinth Chung and Evangelist Deloris Williams.

HEALTH MINISTRY

Vickie Perry, RN/BSN, Ministry Leader



Your health is a life-long journey.

- 1) Take care of body and mind;
- 2) Get and stay active;
- 3) Manage a healthy weight; and
- 4) Practice good sleep habits.

If anyone suspects they may be ill with COVID-19, call 770-513-5631 to schedule a FREE drive-through appointment. A doctor's referral is not needed and no insurance/billing is required. The test location is DPH-Health District 3-4/Lawrenceville East Metro Health District, 2570 Riverside Pkwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30046. (near Old Norcross Road)

COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself & Others

Updated April 24, 2020 CDC

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

Wash Your Hands Often

- <u>Wash your hands</u> often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After handling your cloth face covering
- After changing a diaper
- After caring for someone sick
- After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that has 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid Close Contact

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Outside your home: Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - o Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover Your Mouth and Nose with a Cloth Face Cover When Around Others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover in public.

(COVID-19 cont'd)

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and Disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them.
- Then, use a household disinfectant.

Monitor Your Health Daily

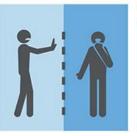
- Be alert for symptoms.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR

OUTREACH MINISTRY – "ONE BODY SAVED TO SERVE"

Diana McGhee, Ministry Leader



"THE FRIENDSHIP MARKET"



RGENT APPEA

NEW HOURS:

Fridays from the Fellowship Hall: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Saturdays from the Outreach Center: 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

For more information about the Outreach Ministry, please contact: Diana McGhee at 404-312-1232 or email her at: dianaymcghee@bellsouth.net. You may also contact Catherine Stafford at 678-983-7587.

Can you help a young man who needs a kidney?

Give the gift of life to a young 28-year-old male in need of a kidney donor. He is my godson. His kidney was compromised due to an attack from Lupus, a chronic, long-term disease that causes inflammation and pain in any part of the body.

I know this is a big request, but I make it on behalf of my godson who devotes his life to making a difference in others' lives. That is why he chose to become a doctor. He just graduated from Medical School and is now practicing in South Carolina. If you can help give him a better quality of life, please consider this request or if you know anyone who may be willing, please share this urgent request.

Donor Requirements:

- Blood type O (+/-)
- In good health (free of cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure)
- \circ 18-60 years old

A screening is required. His insurance will cover <u>all expenses</u> for the donor. If you think you are a likely candidate and are willing to give one of your kidneys to help him, please call 678-662-7966.

Thank you and God bless you! Hyacinth Chung

His Words, His Story. . .

A 2020 FBC High School Graduate

"It all started in 2016 when I was a freshman attending Peachtree Ridge High School. My family has just moved away from California due to financial reasons, but upon arriving in Georgia we still had faced hardships and had trouble finding a stable place to reside. Eventually we ended up in a hotel, where my family and I would be staying during my first year of high school. Despite maintaining my grades, this issue still lingered on my mind. It was disheartening to go from staying in a home to moving between different hotels. Then, when we couldn't afford another night in a hotel, my aunt and uncle would allow us to stay at their place on the weekends to give us a break from having to spend more money in the hotel and they also gave us just a little sense of normalcy. However, their house was in Douglasville about a 45 minute drive from our school which was just as difficult to deal with due to the fact we had to leave for school together and come back together. Between my four siblings and I, each level of schooling (elementary, middle, and high school) was covered. This resulted in us arriving at school earlier and leaving school later. In spite of this, I continued to achieve in school, not allowing myself to become a product of my circumstances. This mindset allowed me to start off high school strong with all A's both semesters."

"Both my sophomore and junior year went smoother than freshman year because by that time my family had just moved into an apartment complex. Because of that I had to switch schools, leaving Peachtree and entering Berkmar. Other than being the new student once again in a new environment not much occurred during this time in my life."

"However, at the start of my senior year my mother decided to leave my father and separate from the marriage. My mother moved my siblings and myself again, back to a hotel and my troubles came back, but I didn't stop striving. At that point I still had a 4.0 GPA and I decided to end my high school career off in a strong way. That way it would lead to an easier future, one where my mom didn't have to worry about my future. This was one of the reasons I had the drive to continue my achievements. Another was in the form of answered prayers, where the Lord has sent his soldiers to aid my family and I. My mom's coworkers provided my siblings and I with presents during Christmas, and invited us to a Target event where we could get a few items of our choice free of charge. They provided food and drinks and paired each one of us with an officer. It was great because without that we wouldn't have anything for Christmas. I was grateful for the gifts but seeing my siblings in a better mood was greater than any gift. Then when my family and I finally did find a house, my mom's coworkers also provided us with basic furniture: tables, chairs, and bed sets. The end was finally in sight, and I was able to

"That's my whole story and through trials and tribulations, I gained a resolve to succeed in any situation no matter how difficult. This was how I became Salutatorian of Berkmar High School for my graduating year of 2020, and also how I earned a full scholarship to Vanderbilt University. I'm likely going to face more hardships as I enter Vanderbilt as part of class of 2024, but I have my resolve, resilience, and moral support of my family to aid me on my journey to becoming a distinguished Surgeon."

fully devote my attention to finishing off school with explosive results."

Lavonté Saunders



Recently, I was asked to share an article or devotion for this newsletter. I hesitated to do so but heard the following scripture quoted so many times lately and thought about the research I had done on it and had previously shared on our morning prayer line. I believed the Holy Spirit was reminding me that I should continue to share it. "Let me add here one very important fact: I am not a preacher and do not in any way want to give that impression. I am a layperson, a servant of God who loves doing research and writing about what has been learned." Several sources were used in compiling this information, but the main one is The Holy Bible, using different translations.

2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

It includes four conditions. If they're fulfilled, God has promised three specific blessings.

I used to work as an accountant. I had to have a good understanding of Lotus and Microsoft Excel formulas in order to perform my duties. One such formula was a condition statement that said, "<u>If, Then, Else</u>." What that meant is that <u>if</u> a certain condition was "<u>true</u>", <u>then</u> you had to do something; <u>else</u> meant if were not true, you had to do something different or you did nothing.

When you read this verse, it seems clear that the formula fits. It says if my people will meet all four of those conditions, then I will act on their behalf. If they don't, they will suffer the consequences. If – Then – Else.

In doing my study, I read Ch. 6 and the first part of Ch. 7 as well as vs.15. I learned that King Solomon had built and dedicated the temple of God. In so doing, he interceded for the people seeking forgiveness for sinful behavior they may have knowingly and unknowingly committed. God let Solomon know that he heard his prayer. He let him know that there was a way out.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is quoted often. I've heard it alluded to many times on our morning prayer line recently and our Pastor closed his message with it recently. Although it was addressed to God's chosen people, the Israelites, we're also recipients of His promises.

In the same way that the Israelites were knee deep in sin, so it is today. I don't need to list all the sinful acts that are rampant in our society. We talk about them all the time. Christians get caught up in some of this foolishness. Whether we care to admit it or not, these sinful acts are **against God** for He has commanded us to be holy as He is holy.

It's time to stop with the madness. It's time to focus on the conditions He has presented us. It's time to take them seriously; not just one of them but all of them. God is clear as to who He's talking to – His people called by His name.

I said there are <u>four conditions</u>: Humble ourselves; Pray; Seek His face; Turn from our wicked ways. Let's consider them one by one:

#1 Humble ourselves

To humble means to give up your will to another; to allow someone else to make decisions for you or to give you instructions. God wants us to submit our will to His. If and when we do so, we demonstrate trust in Him. He doesn't force us. The decision is ours.

If truth is told, we like being in control or to think that we are. When we can't control our situation, we tend to rebel. We want to be free to do as we want; to make decisions that we think will bring the best outcome. God is saying trust me; look to me for direction; walk in obedience to my leading. He is saying, allow Me to direct your path, to guide your thoughts so that His will can be worked out, in and through our lives and so that He can be glorified in and through us. James 4:10 says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."

#2 Pray

The second condition is Pray. Prayer is our way of communicating with Him. No relationship, whether between husband or wife, sister to sister, employer to employee, pastor to congregant, can grow if there is no communication in the relationship. We can't have a relationship with God and get to know Him and His will and plan for our lives unless we communicate with Him. And don't neglect the fact that we're also to listen to Him as He guides us along the way.

I'm sure we've all heard many presentations on prayer. If you think about it, we can never get enough of learning who we're talking to, why we're talking to Him, what we should be talking about and when we should do it. One of the first things I did when I became a Christian was to look up every scripture that had the word pray or prayer in it. All I knew previous to that was God is great and God is good and we thank Him for our food and so on. Then when I laid down at night, I was taught to say, Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. For me, there was no real significance; no real meaning. They were rote prayers. They never changed. Believe me, I'm not complaining because at least my family taught me something to acknowledge God day and night. I needed to understand what prayer was really about and why it should be done.

I once read a book entitled, the Concert of Prayer and learned an acronym for prayer: ACTS. Most of you know it, A=adoration; C=confession; T=thanksgiving; S=supplication. I learned the importance of adding all of this in my every day prayer life. I learned through reading Nehemiah, my favorite OT book. He incorporated adoration, confession and supplication in his prayers. Thanksgiving did not have to be uttered to understand that he was also thanking God for His faithfulness, mercy and promises.

I also learned from Matthew 6:5-8 not to pray like the hypocrites as they wanted to be seen or heard publicly. They shall gain nothing else for their offering. The scriptures go on to say that we should offer our prayers in secret and God will reward us. It goes on to say that our prayers should not be meaningless repetition. We are encouraged not to be like the hypocrites, for God knows what we need even before we ask. He desires that we talk to Him, that we listen to Him, that we get to know Him and get to know His heart in order that His will is worked out in our lives.

I need to add here that I chose these verses because I wanted to make it personal. I realize and acknowledge that collective or corporate prayer is important and necessary. Prayer is also the greatest opportunity we have to invoke God's presence and share with Him our innermost concerns and our deepest, darkest secrets. The bottom line here is that our prayers are to be out of a sincere and humble heart *and* they are to be specific if we want our God to hear and answer them.

#3 Seek My Face

Webster's dictionary provides several definitions for seek: to search for; to try to find; to pursue; to seek to please someone. God wants us, His people, to pursue Him. If we do, He will not hide from us. His word encourages us to seek Him and we shall find Him.

I tried to find a really good example of seeking something. I used the synonym "to search for". It occurred to me that many of us will go from store to store to find a particular item and we won't give up until we have it. Another

example is when we misplace something of value. We don't stop searching until we find it. These examples do not fully express what God is requiring, but they're the closest I can come to. He wants our seeking to be continuous; ongoing; never ending. He wants us to seek His truths through studying his Word. He wants us to acknowledge Him. He wants us to follow Him. God wants us to search for His truths and walk in them.

Another one of my favorite bible chapters is Proverbs 2. It speaks of the moral benefits of wisdom. I'm going to quote verses 1-5 because they express for me the idea of truly seeking after God. I learned it using the NIV so that's what I'll share. I hope you aren't offended that I'm inserting child for son. "My child, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."

Did you hear the If/Then condition? There are eight conditions and two promises in these verses. Accept; store up; turn your ear; apply; look for it; call out; cry aloud - all speak of the intensity with which we should seek the Lord. Then and only then shall we receive His promises of understanding and knowledge.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." The result is that nothing will be able to break our communion with God when we seek Him wholeheartedly.

Hebrews 11:6 – He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. When we pursue God, we get to know Him and we're able to hear Him. Our hearts must be ready, willing and able.

No sorrow, frustration, physical problems or pandemic can break our communion with God when we seek Him wholeheartedly.

4 Turn from their wicked ways

The best way to describe this is repentance. When you consider the word turn, that's what comes to mind. In repentance, you turn from your sin and return to that point before you started doing it. When we are in sin, we are turned from His presence. God wants us to admit our mistakes, make a U-turn and go back to that place where we first met Jesus. He wants us to return to the relationship we had with Him. He wants to be able to bless us. Stop doing those things that grieve His Holy Spirit and start doing that which exalts your heavenly Father.

We live in a confused world. Many people in today's society do not know the difference between good and wicked. They ignore what the bible says about hatred, homosexuality, violence and more. A good example is same sex relationships. We know that this type of behavior is contrary to the Word and will of God. Yet the world says everything and anything is acceptable. Basically, you can do whatever you want and it goes so far as to say that God approves of it and that we Christians are misinterpreting the Word when we speak against these behaviors.

Psalm 14:2-3 says that the Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. Verse 3 – "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy (corrupt): there is none that doeth good, no not one." It would seem that we are reaping the consequences of our behavior as we deal with the current situation the world is facing. We must put away evil and wicked behaviors; stop operating in disobedience. Stop thinking and doing as the world does. Repent, seek forgiveness and walk in obedience. Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

If we will do as He has instructed, that is, if we meet His conditions, we shall receive His blessings for He has made three promises:

1 St Then will I hear from heaven

I struggled a bit with the interpretation of this phrase from a grammatical standpoint. It took a moment and much conversation with a minister friend before it hit me, but something she said caused a light to come on. Heaven is the place where our God resides; a place of eternal bliss. It is from His place of residence that God will listen closely to His people. It is from this place that He will determine the sincerity of our actions, hear our concerns and speak to our hearts. Exodus 20:22 – "Then the Lord said to Moses, you have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven." Matthew 6:9: "Our Father which art in heaven." Jesus himself addressed God in His eternal dwelling place; John 12:28, "Then a voice came from heaven..."; and one more, Revelation 8:21, When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Our God has a dwelling place. I can't say where heaven is but we know that God resides there and it has nothing to do with the fact that His presence is everywhere, all the time.

God promised to not only listen to our prayers but He will pay close attention to every plea; every request and, not only that, but as long as our requests are made out of a sincere heart and according to His will, He is going to act on them. He will not allow the enemy to harm us; He will cause us to be victorious. He will bless us with favor and He will do all these things from His heavenly throne.

2nd Forgive their sins

To forgive means to pardon. Sin separates us from God. It destroys our relationship with Him. We know that the wages of sin is death. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness and His gift to us is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

God has promised to spare His people from spiritual death. He has promised to set us free from the consequences of sin; to wipe the slate clean. Before He can forgive us, we must repent. He says, "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you." (Ezekiel 18:30) Does this mean that we shall never fall into divers temptations again? No, it does not. We're human. We sometimes fall prey to our surroundings. There are times when we do so willingly. There are also times when we don't. But, we can always fall back on the Word which tells us that Our God will not only pardon us but He will make a way of escape for us. We do not have to give in but if we do, we know that we don't have to stay in a place of darkness. We can confess our mistakes, turn from them seek His forgiveness and He will welcome us back with loving care. Every day is a new opportunity to get it right.

3rd Heal their land

This is the third and final promise in this verse. To heal means to make well; to restore to a healthy condition; to reconcile; to free from grief or trouble. Our God is saying if you will obey the commandments I've placed before you, not only will I pay close attention to your prayers as I sit in my dwelling place, not only will I forgive you for your disobedient and sinful ways but I will not cause any kind of sickness or disease to affect your people. I will turn from your sin as far as the east is from the west and not bring judgement upon you. The rains will come to water the earth. Your crops will be rich and plenteous, enough to feed your families and livestock. You will have all that you need and you will prosper. This is the promise He made to the Israelites. And we too are benefactors.

When we consider the state of our union, the COVID19 virus, the wickedness going on around us; the injustice and oppression black people and other minorities are experiencing, the disobedience to following the example that our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has set before us, we can safely apply these conditions and promised blessings to today's followers - those who are called by His name - those of us who refer to ourselves as Christians.

Take heed. Many Christians are becoming like the world; they're distorting the truth. They're trying to change its meaning to suit their own desires. Homosexuals who profess to believe will tell you that we're misinterpreting what God has to say about their behavior. Many Christians still run in and out of relationships without any thought as to what the bible says about whoremongering or infidelity. Many will lie, cheat and steal to get what they want.

We quote 2 Chronicles 7:14, but how many take it to heart? How many realize how serious it is; and that we need to repent of our wicked behavior? How many understand that we must obey not one or two, but all of these conditions? And if we don't, *we will* suffer the consequences of our actions. I dare say this is where we're at now.

Let me stop here a moment and emphasize a very important fact. It's found in the use of the word "<u>and.</u>" <u>And</u> means in addition to; as well as. Webster says it's used to join elements of equal grammatical value. Example: A red and white dress or begged and borrowed. In our focus verse, **and** is used several times. It connects humble to pray and pray to seek and seek to turn from. It's letting us know that each is equally important to God and you can't do one and ignore the other.

Our God wants to bless us. He wants to provide for us. He wants to protect us. He wants to prosper us. His word says that He will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. It's true that we need to repent, but equally important is obedience. In saying that, what are we to obey? It's simple. Obey the Word as He has declared it. There's a very short song that says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way – to be happy in Jesus unless you trust and obey.

Don't half step; pray in a spirit of humility; seek his face daily. Repent of anything that will hinder you from doing the will of God. Walk worthily before Him. If need be, ask Him to wash you thoroughly from your iniquity and cleanse you from your sin. Ask Him to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within. We can all use a little spiritual cleansing every now and then.

I need to stick another pin here because I don't want to deceive anyone. God has not promised that every day will be without ups and downs, but He has promised to keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Him. The "us" refers to believers, followers, true worshippers. Isaiah 48:22 says that there is no peace for the wicked. On the flip side, Isaiah 26:3 says "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Our God has declared that his eyes shall be open and His ears attend to the prayer that is made in this place. This place may be the temple; it may be the church or it may be from your very own heart. No matter. **He's watching. He is listening. He's waiting.**



If you want to experience the peace that only God can provide, honor His conditions with a sincere heart and reap the benefits.

Do it because He's worthy and deserves even more than what you can offer.

Do it because without Him, we will surely continue to fail.

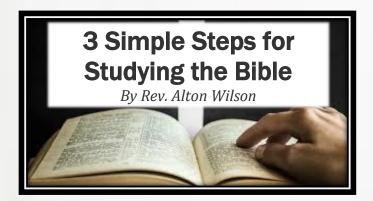
40 Evidences That You May Have Left Your First Love

- 1. You can go hours or days without having more than a passing thought of Him.
- You don't have a strong desire to spend time with Him.
- 3. You don't have a strong hunger for the Word; Bible reading is a "chore"—something to mark off your "to do" list.
- **4.** Spending time in prayer is a burden/duty rather than a delight.
- *5*. Your worship is formal, dry, lifeless, merely going through the motions.
- 6. Private prayer and worship are almost non-existent . . . cold and dry.
- You are more concerned about physical health, well-being, and comfort than about the well-being and condition of your soul.
- **2.** You crave physical food, while having little appetite for spiritual food.
- 9. You crave human companionship more than a relationship with Christ.
- **10.** You spend more time and effort on your physical appearance than on cultivating inner spiritual beauty to please Christ.
- 11. Your heart toward Christ is cold and indifferent; not tender as it once was, not easily moved by the Word, talk of spiritual things, etc.
- **12.** Christianity is more of a checklist than a relationship with Christ.
- **13.** You measure spirituality (yours/others') by performance rather than the condition of the heart.
- **14.** Christianity is defined more by what you "do" than who you "are" ("doing" vs. "being").
- **15**. Your obedience and service are motivated and fueled by expectations of others or a desire to impress others, more than by passion for Christ.
- **16.** You are more concerned about what others think and pleasing them, than about what God knows and pleasing Christ.
- 17. Your service for Christ and others is motivated by a sense of duty or obligation.
- **18.** You find yourself becoming resentful over the hardships and demands of serving Christ and others.
- 19. You can talk with others about kids, marriage, weather, and the news, but struggle to talk about the Lord and spiritual matters.
- **20.** You have a hard time coming up with something fresh to share in a testimony service at church or when someone asks, "What's God been doing in your life?"
- 21. You are formal, rigid, and uptight about spiritual things, rather than joyful and winsome.

- 22. You are critical or harsh toward those who are doctrinally off-base or living in sin.
- 23. You enjoy secular songs, movies, and books more than songs or reading material that point you to Christ.
- 24. You prefer the company of people who don't love Christ rather than the company and fellowship of those who do.
- 25. You are more interested in recreation, entertainment, and having "fun" than in cultivating intimacy with Christ through worship, prayer, the Word, and Christian fellowship.
- **26.** You display attitudes or are involved in activities that you know are contrary to Scripture, but you continue in them anyway.
- **27.** You justify "small" areas of disobedience or compromise.
- 28. You have been drawn back into sin habits that you put off when you were a young believer.
- **29.** "Little" things that used to disturb your conscience, no longer do.
- **30.** You are slow to respond to conviction over sin—or you ignore it altogether.
- **31.** You enjoy certain sins and want to hang onto them. You are unwilling to give them up for Christ.
- **32.** You are not grieved by sin—it's no big deal to you.
- **33.** You are consistently allured by certain sins.
- **34.** You are self-righteous—more concerned about sin in others' lives than in your own.
- **35.** You are more concerned about having the right *position* than the right *disposition*.
- **36.** You tend to hold tightly to money and things, rather than being quick to give to meet the needs of others.
- **37**. You rarely give sacrificially to the Lord's work.
- **38.** You rarely have a desire or burden to give, when you hear of legitimate financial needs within the Body, your church, or a ministry.
- 39. Accumulating and maintaining material "things" consumes more time and effort on your part than seeking after and cultivating spiritual riches.
- **40**. You have broken relationships with other believers that you are unwilling or have not attempted to reconcile.

How's your "love life"? If you saw yourself in the descriptions above, you may feel an overwhelming despair. Remember that the Spirit doesn't condemn, but convicts. If He is convicting you, respond with godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:10).

Source: Reviveourhearts.com 2/12/09 blog



One of the noblest pursuits a child of God can embark upon is to get to know and understand God better. The best way we can accomplish this is to look carefully at the book He has written, the Bible, which communicates who He is and His plan for mankind.

There are a number of ways we can study the Bible, but one of the most effective and simple approaches to reading and understanding God's Word involves three simple steps:

- Step 1: Observation—What does the passage say?
- Step 2: Interpretation—What does the passage mean?
- Step 3: Application—What am I going to do about what the passage says and means?

Step #1: Observation

Observation is the first and most important step in the process. As you read the Bible text, you need to look carefully at what is said, and how it is said. Look for:

- *Terms, not words*. Words can have many meanings, but terms are words used in a specific way in a specific context. (For instance, the word *trunk* could apply to a tree, a car, or a storage box. However, when you read, "That tree has a very large trunk," you know exactly what the word means, which makes it a term.)
- *Structure*. If you look at your Bible, you will see that the text has units called paragraphs (indented or marked ¶). A paragraph is a complete unit of thought. You can discover the content of the author's message by noting and understanding each paragraph unit.
- *Emphasis*. The amount of space or the number of chapters or verses devoted to a specific topic will reveal the importance of that topic (for example, note the emphasis of Romans 9 and Psalms 119).
 - Romans 9 God's sovereign wisdom and grace in working out His purpose despite the unfaithfulness of Israel (v. 11)
 - Psalm 119 extols the beauty and excellencies of the written Word found nowhere else in the Bible
 - God's Word is treated under these designations:
 - Law; word (words); ordinances; commandments; precepts; testimonies; statutes; and judgments

(Studying the Bible cont'd)

- *Repetition*. This is another way an author demonstrates that something is important. One reading of <u>1 Corinthians 13</u>, where the author uses the word "love" nine times in only 13 verses, communicates to us that love is the focal point of these 13 verses.
- *Relationships between ideas*. Pay close attention, for example, to certain relationships that appear in the text:
 - Cause-and-effect: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things,
 I will make you ruler over many things" (Matthew 25:21).
 - Ifs and thens: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).
 - Questions and answers: "Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty" (Psalms 24:8).
- *Comparisons and contrasts*. For example, "You have heard that it was said...but I say to you..." (Matthew 5:21-22).
- Literary form. The Bible is literature, and the three main types of literature in the Bible are discourse (the epistles), prose (Old Testament history), and poetry (the Psalms). Considering the type of literature makes a great deal of difference when you read and interpret the Scriptures.
- *Atmosphere*. The author had a particular reason or burden for writing each passage, chapter, and book. Be sure you notice the mood or tone or urgency of the writing.

After you have considered these things, you then are ready to ask the "Wh" questions: Who? What? Where? When?

Who are the people in this passage? What is happening in this passage? Where is this story taking place? When in time (of day, of the year, in history) is it?

Asking these four "Wh" questions can help you notice terms and identify atmosphere. The answers will also enable you to use your imagination to recreate the scene you're reading about.

As you answer the "Wh" questions and imagine the event, you'll probably come up with some questions of your own.

Asking those additional questions for understanding will help to build a bridge between observation (the first step) and interpretation (the second step) of the Bible study process.

Step #2: Interpretation

Interpretation is discovering the meaning of a passage, the author's main thought or idea. Answering the questions that arise during observation will help you in the process of interpretation. Five clues (called "the five C's") can help you determine the author's main point(s):

• Context. You can answer 75 percent of your questions about a passage when you read the text. Reading the text involves looking at the near context (the verse immediately before and after) as well as the far context (the paragraph or the chapter that precedes and/or follows the passage you're studying).

(Studying the Bible cont'd)

- *Cross-references*. Let Scripture interpret Scripture. That is, let other passages in the Bible shed light on the passage you are looking at. At the same time, be careful not to assume that the same word or phrase in two different passages means the same thing.
- *Culture*. The Bible was written long ago, so when we interpret it, we need to understand it from the writers' cultural context.
- *Conclusion*. Having answered your questions for understanding by means of context, cross-reference, and culture, you can make a preliminary statement of the passage's meaning. Remember that if your passage consists of more than one paragraph, the author may be presenting more than one thought or idea.
- *Consultation*. Reading books known as commentaries, which are written by Bible scholars, can help you interpret Scripture.

Step #3: Application

Application is why we study the Bible. We want our lives to change; we want to be obedient to God and to grow more like Jesus Christ. After we have observed a passage and interpreted or understood it to the best of our ability, we must then apply its truth to our own life.

You'll want to ask the following questions of every passage of Scripture you study:

- How does the truth revealed here affect my relationship with God?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- How does this truth affect me?
- How does this truth affect my response to the enemy, Satan?

The application step is not completed by simply answering these questions; the key is **putting into practice** what God has taught you in your study. Although at any given moment you cannot be consciously applying everything you're learning in Bible study, you can be consciously applying something. And when you work on applying a truth to your life, God will bless your efforts by, as noted earlier, conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ.





I went to **Genesis** hotel through **Exodus** road. On the way, I saw **Leviticus** recording the **Numbers** of people at **Deuteronomy**, while **Joshua** was waiting at the beautiful gate for **Judges** to see **Ruth** calling loudly "**Samuel**, **Samuel**".

At a stage, the **first and second Kings** of **Chronicles one and two** were coming to visit **Ezra, Nehemiah** and **Esther** for the misfortune of **Job**, their brother. They started singing **Psalms** and teaching children **Proverbs** concerning **Ecclesiastes** and **Song of Solomon**.

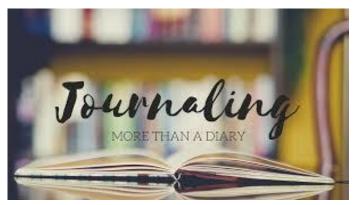
This coincided with the period that **Isaiah** was engaged in **Jeremiah's Lamentations** together with **Ezekiel** and **Daniel**, their friends. By that time, **Amos** and **Obadiah** were not around. Three days later, **Hosea**, **Joel** and **Jonah** travelled in the same ship with **Micah** and **Nahum** to Jerusalem. **Habakkuk** then visited

Zephaniah who introduced him to **Haggai**, a friend of **Zechariah** whose cousin is **Malachi**.

Immediately after the tradition, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John got involved in Acts of the Romans who were behaving like the first Corinthians group because the second Corinthians group was always at loggerheads with the Galatians. At that time, too, they realized that the Ephesians and Philippians were close to the Colossians and a suggestion for the first Thessalonians visit was made, and that on their second Thessalonians visit, they should first of all see the first and second of the Timothy brothers who had gone to the house of Titus to teach Philemon, his younger brother, how to read and write in Hebrew.

On hearing this, **James** asked **Peter** twice to explain to him how the **three Johns** have disclosed to **Jude** the **Revelations** of this journey.

Unknown Author



5 Spiritual Benefits from Journaling (God's Spiritual Cross-trainer)

By Charles Stone, Blogger / Posted December 20, 2018

Athletes understand that quality equipment helps them perform at their peak. A baseball player likes a broken-in glove. A basketball player prefers a leather ball. A tennis player wants a well-balanced racket. Although equipment varies from one sport to the

next, every athlete requires good shoes. Since many people enjoy several sports, shoe manufacturers created a shoe style called a cross-trainer for use in multiple sports. Journaling, writing down our experiences with God, can serve a similar spiritual purpose.

Richard Peace, author and theologian, describes journaling as a spiritual cross-trainer that helps as an "aid to other spiritual disciplines" (*Spiritual Journaling: Recording Your Journey Toward God*). It becomes a powerful tool the Holy Spirit can use to develop Christ-likeness when we exercise spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading and fasting.

Although the Bible doesn't command us to journal, several of its writers modeled this practice. Many of the Psalms represent David's journaling as he wrestled with deep spiritual issues. Job struggles with the question of evil in his journal, the book that bears his name. Jeremiah's journal, Lamentations, records his agony over Jerusalem's fall. And Solomon pens his search for happiness in his journal Ecclesiastes. Journaling's simplicity and profound potential to create spiritual change eludes many Christians. If journaling is new to you or if you've tried it and become discouraged, consider these practical benefits.

1. Journaling softens our hearts.

Every farmer knows he must till the soil to soften it before he plants the seed. In the same manner we often need our hearts softened. Hosea said, "Plow up the hard ground of your hearts . . . " (Hosea 10:12, NLT). When softened, our hearts respond more readily to the Spirit's promptings.

2. Journaling sifts truth from error.

As a child I remember helping my mom bake cakes. She let me sift flour through her aluminum can-like sifter. When I rotated the handle, the sifter removed the lumps from the flour. Just as lumps were interspersed in the flour, sometimes we unintentionally mix "lumps" of lies in our self-talk such as, "I'm a rotten person," "God is mad at me," or "I'm worthless." When we journal and put these thoughts on paper, it's easier to sort out truth from error. Then we can counter them with God's Truth and experience a more biblical outlook on life.

3. Journaling slows our pace.

My first driving experience at age nine on the Model-T ride at Six Flags disappointed me. Expecting to burn rubber when I floored the gas pedal, I barely reached 5 mph. My dad later explained that a device called a governor kept the engine from running at full capacity. Many Christians run their lives at full capacity with life's "gas pedal" pushed to the max. Journaling acts like a governor to slow our frenzied pace and force us to listen to the Spirit's voice.

(Journaling cont'd)

4. Journaling builds faith.

Few of us will remember what God taught us last week, much less last year unless we write it down. Journaling builds our faith when we record God's faithful acts. Then we can refer back to that record to remind us of his continued faithfulness. Psalms 77:11 says, "I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago." (NIV)

5. Journaling releases pain.

I still remember the staccato hiss from my mother's pressure cooker when she cooked fresh green beans. After she locked the main top into place, she placed a small metal cap over the pressure release valve. This allowed the pressure to slowly release. Similar emotional pressure can build up inside us to the point that we want to explode at others. Journaling provides a spiritual pressure release valve for our pain that can prevent that explosion. David encouraged this when he wrote "... pour out your hearts to him ..." Psalm 62:8, NIV).

Journaling, God's spiritual cross-trainer, offers many spiritual benefits. If you want to try it, consider these six practical guidelines.

- 1. Get a notebook.
- 2. Set a consistent time in a quiet place.
- 3. Make a commitment to stick with it.
- 4. Date each entry.
- 5. Write from feeling, not from fact. Don't just record what happened in your life. Write down how your experiences affected your heart and emotions.
- 6. Periodically review your entries to discover spiritual trends in your life.



THE 411 ON "5G" NETWORKS

By Kelly Wilson, Communications Ministry

If you have a cell phone, chances are you have seen the 5G or 4G icon at the top of your cell phone screen at least 10 times a day. If you're like me, you probably don't even realize what it means or why it's there. Allow me to school you on that infamous 5G icon. What is it? Why is it important? Do I really need it in order for my cell phone to work properly?



In the telecommunications world, 5G is the fifth generational technology standard for cellular networks. It succeeds its predecessor 4G networks (insert T-Mobile 4G commercial into memory). Cell phone companies, such as Verizon, deployed the 5G networks in 2019 to provide its customers with connectivity to most current cell phones. 5G networks are indeed cellular networks that are broken down into small geographical regions, otherwise known as cells.

The process by which 5G wireless devices work is as follows: the devices are connected to the internet and telephone network by radio waves through a local antenna in the cell. The reason why 5G networks are such a big deal is because it has greater bandwidth. What does that mean in laymen terms? I'm so glad you asked. It means that it gives cellular devices higher download speeds of up to 10 gigabits per second. Increased bandwidth along with higher download speeds will enable the 5G networks to not only service cell phones, but also other devices such as laptops and desktop computers in a general internet service provider manner. With that being said, 4G cell phones will not be able to utilize those 5G networks. In other words, if you want to be able to use the 5G networks, you better do like Beyoncé said, "let me upgrade ya" or upgrade your cellular network that is.

If you're interested in purchasing a new cell phone with 5G capability, there are some options out there for you. Samsung launched the first cell phone to connect to 5G networks when it dropped its Samsung Galaxy S10 5G phone. On March 6, 2020 Samsung also launched the first all-5G smartphone with the Samsung Galaxy S20. Shout out to #TeamAndroid for the win. In case you're wondering how much a phone like that costs, it retails in the U.S. market with a starting price of \$1,000 while the S10 retails for a measly \$750. If you're counting your pennies, then I suggest waiting until more phones enter the market or a decrease in the retail price.

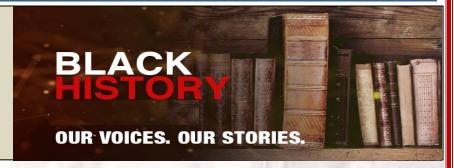
This new instrument of technology is not exempt from naysayers and conspiracy theories. I've watched several YouTube videos of consumers expressing their concerns with the 5G network capabilities. The main concern in the videos I watched was the dangerous effects of radiation that is emitting off of the 5G networks and the number of cellular towers being placed in communities. Other than health and environmental concerns, 5G networks also raises security and surveillance concerns. The U.S and UK have taken a stance to prohibit the use of Chinese equipment in their 5G networks. The threat of increased cyberattacks with this new technology has also raised concerns for prospective consumers. With anything, there will be both positive and negative components to the use of 5G networks, but it is up to us as consumers to exercise good judgment when deciding on utilizing 5G networks.

To conclude, I would like to leave you with a scripture to ease your mind if you have any concerns in regards to 5G networks.

Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let vour requests be made known unto God." Be Blessed!

Celebrating Our History

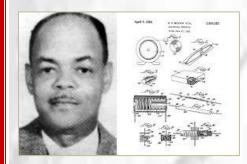
A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots. Attributed to Marcus Garvey



Sis. Diane Russell Black History Coordinator Communications Ministry

BLACK INVENTORS

OTIS FRANK BOYKIN



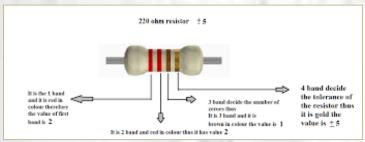
Otis Boykin graduated from Fisk College in 1941 and took a job with the Majestic Radio and TV Corporation. He later worked at P. J. Nilsen Research Laboratories. He began to invent products on his own, with some of his noteworthy inventions including a wire precision resistor used in televisions and radios and a control unit for the pacemaker.

Boykin was born on August 29, 1920, in Dallas, Texas. After graduating from high school, he attended Fisk College in Nashville, Tennessee, graduating in 1941.

That same year, he took a job as a lab assistant with the Majestic Radio and TV Corporation in Chicago, Illinois. He rose in the ranks, ultimately serving as a supervisor. He eventually took a position with the P.J. Nilsen Research Laboratories while trying to start his own business, Boykin-Fruth Incorporated. At the same time, he decided to continue his education, pursuing graduate studies at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. He was forced to drop out in 1947, after only two years of education, because he was unable to afford tuition.

Boykin, who took a special interest in working with resistors, began researching and inventing on his own. He sought and received a patent for a wire precision resistor on June 16, 1959. This resistor would later be used in radios and televisions. Two years later, he created a breakthrough device that could withstand extreme changes in temperature and pressure. The device, which was cheaper and more reliable than others on the market, came in great demand by the United States military for guided missiles and IBM for computers.

In 1964, Boykin moved to Paris, creating electronic innovations for a new market of customers. His most famous invention was a control unit for the pacemaker. Ironically, Boykin died in Chicago in 1982 as a result of heart failure. Upon his death, he had 26 patents to his name.





GARRETT MORGAN



Garrett Morgan blazed a trail for African American inventors with his patents, including those for a hair-straightening product, a breathing device, a revamped sewing machine and an improved traffic signal.

Born in Paris, Kentucky, on March 4, 1877, Garrett Morgan was the seventh of 11 children. His mother, Elizabeth Reed, was of Indian and African descent, and the daughter of a Baptist minister. His father, Sydney, a former slave freed in 1863, was the son of John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate colonel. Garrett Morgan's mixed-race heritage would play a part in his business dealings as an adult.

With only an elementary school education, Garrett Morgan began his career as a sewing-machine mechanic. He went on to patent several inventions, including an improved sewing machine and traffic signal, a hair-straightening product, and a respiratory device that would later provide the blueprint for WWI gas masks. The inventor died on July 27, 1963, in Cleveland, Ohio.

When Morgan was in his mid-teens, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to look for work, and found it as a handyman to a wealthy landowner. Although he only completed an elementary school education, Morgan was able to pay for more lessons from a private tutor. But jobs at several sewing-machine factories were to soon capture his imagination and determine his future. Learning the inner workings of the machines and how to fix them, Morgan obtained a patent for an improved sewing machine and opened his own repair business. Morgan's business was a success, and it enabled him to marry a Bavarian woman named Mary Anne Hassek, and establish himself in Cleveland. (He and his wife would have three sons during their marriage.)

Following the momentum of his business success, Morgan's patented sewing machine would soon pave the way to his financial freedom, albeit in a rather unorthodox way: In 1909, Morgan was working with sewing machines in his newly opened tailoring shop — a business he had opened with wife Mary, who had experience as a seamstress — when he encountered woolen fabric that had been scorched by a sewing-machine needle. It was a common problem at the time since sewing-machine needles ran at such high speeds. In hopes of alleviating the problem, Morgan experimented with a chemical solution in an effort to reduce friction created by the needle and subsequently noticed that the hairs of the cloth were straighter.

After trying his solution to good effect on a neighboring dog's fur, Morgan finally tested the concoction on himself. When that worked, he quickly established the G.A. Morgan Hair Refining Company and sold the cream to African Americans. The company was incredibly successful, bringing Morgan financial security and allowing him to pursue other interests.

In 1914, Morgan patented a breathing device, or "safety hood," providing its wearers with a safer breathing experience in the presence of smoke, gases and other pollutants. Morgan worked hard to market the device, especially to fire departments, often personally demonstrating its reliability in fires. Morgan's breathing device became the prototype and precursor for the gas masks used during World War I, protecting soldiers from toxic gas used in warfare. The invention earned him the first prize at the Second International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation in New York City.

There was some resistance to Morgan's devices among buyers, particularly in the South, where racial tension remained palpable despite advancements in African American rights. In an effort to counteract the resistance to his products, Morgan hired a white actor to pose as "the inventor" during presentations of his breathing device; Morgan would pose as the inventor's sidekick, disguised as a Native American man named "Big Chief Mason," and, wearing his hood, enter areas otherwise unsafe for breathing. The tactic was successful; sales of the device were brisk, especially from firefighters and rescue workers.

In 1916, the city of Cleveland was drilling a new tunnel under Lake Erie for a fresh water supply. Workers hit a pocket of natural gas, which resulted in a huge explosion and trapped workers underground amidst suffocating noxious fumes and dust. When Morgan heard about the explosion, he and his brother put on breathing devices, made their way to the tunnel and entered as quickly as possible. The brothers managed to save two lives and recover four bodies before the rescue effort was shut down.

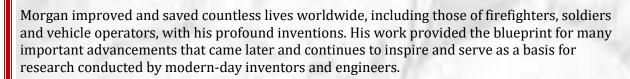
Despite his heroic efforts, the publicity that Morgan garnered from the incident hurt sales; the public was now fully aware that Morgan was an African American, and many refused to purchase his products. Adding to the detriment, neither the inventor nor his brother were fully recognized for their heroic efforts at Lake Erie — possibly another effect of racial discrimination. Morgan was nominated for a Carnegie Medal for his efforts, but ultimately wasn't chosen to receive the award. Additionally, some reports of the explosion named others as the rescuers.

While the public's lack of acknowledgment for Morgan's and his brother's roles at the Cleveland explosion was undoubtedly disheartening, Morgan was a voracious inventor and observer who focused on fixing problems and soon turned his attention to all kinds of things, from hats to belt fasteners to car parts.

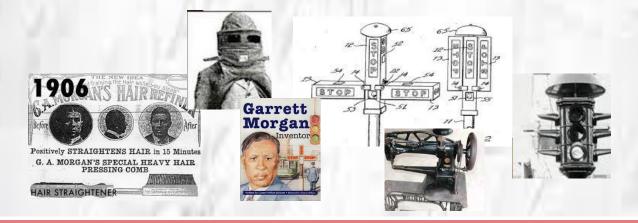
The first Black man in Cleveland to own a car, Morgan worked on his mechanical skills and developed a friction drive clutch. Then, in 1923, he created a new kind of traffic signal, one with a warning light to alert drivers that they would need to stop, after witnessing a carriage accident at a particularly problematic intersection in the city. Morgan quickly acquired patents for his traffic signal—a rudimentary version of the modern three-way traffic light—in the United States, Britain and Canada, but eventually sold the rights to General Electric for \$40,000.

Outside of his inventing career, Morgan diligently supported the African American community throughout his lifetime. He was a member of the newly formed National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was active in the Cleveland Association of Colored Men, donated to Negro colleges and opened an all-Black country club. Additionally, in 1920, he launched the African American newspaper the *Cleveland Call* (later named the *Call and Post*).

Morgan began developing glaucoma in 1943 and lost most of his sight as a result. The accomplished inventor died in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 27, 1963, shortly before the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation centennial, an event he had been awaiting. Just before his death, Morgan was honored by the U.S. government for his traffic signal invention, and he was eventually restored to his place in history as a hero of the Lake Erie rescue.







MARIE VAN BRITTAN BROWN



Marie Van Brittan Brown was the inventor of the first home security system. She is also credited with the invention of the first closed circuit television. Brown was born in Queens, New York, on October 22, 1922, and resided there until her death on February 2, 1999, at age seventy-six. Her father was born in Massachusetts and her mother was from Pennsylvania.

The patent for the invention was filed in 1966, and it later influenced modern home security systems that are still used today. Brown's invention was inspired by the security risk that her home faced in the neighborhood where she lived. Marie Brown worked as a nurse and her husband, Albert Brown, worked as an

electronics technician. Their work hours were not the standard nine-to-five, and the crime rate in their Queens, New York City neighborhood was very high. Even when the police were contacted in the event of an emergency, the response time tended to be slow. As a result, Brown looked for ways to increase her level of personal security. She needed to create a system that would allow her to know who was at her home and contact relevant authorities as quickly as possible.

Brown's security system was the basis for the two-way communication and surveillance features of modern security. Her original invention was comprised of peepholes, a camera, monitors, and a two-way microphone. The final element was an alarm button that could be pressed to contact the police immediately.

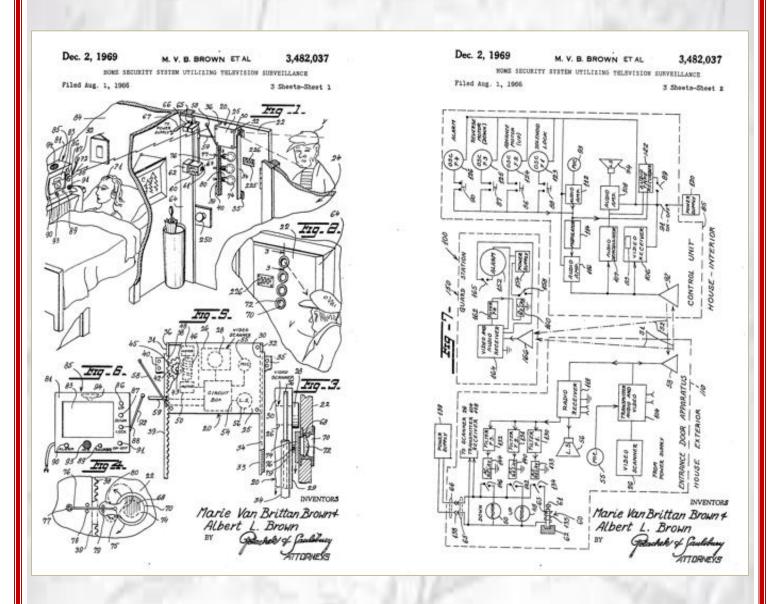
Three peepholes were placed on the front door at different height levels. The top one was for tall persons, the bottom one was for children, and the middle one was for anyone of average height. At the opposite side of the door a camera was attached with the ability to slide up and down to allow the person to see through each peephole. The camera picked up images that would reflect on the monitor via a wireless system. The monitor could be placed in any part of the house to allow you to see who was at the door.

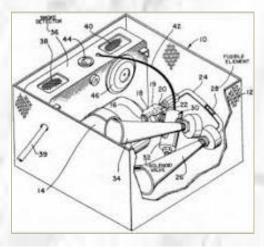
There was also a voice component to enable Brown to speak to the person outside. If the person was perceived to be an intruder, the police would be notified with the push of a button. If the person was a welcome or expected visitor, the door could be unlocked via remote control.

Marie and Albert Brown filed for a patent on August 1, 1966, under the title, "Home Security System Utilizing Television Surveillance." Their application was approved on December 2, 1969. Brown's invention gained her well-deserved recognition, including an award from the National Scientists Committee (no year for the award can be identified) and an interview with *The New York Times* on December 6, 1969.

Brown's invention laid the foundation for later security systems that make use of its features such as video monitoring, remote-controlled door locks, push-button alarm triggers, instant messaging to security providers and police, as well as two-way voice communication. Her invention is still used by small businesses, small offices, single-family homes, and multi-unit dwellings such as apartments and condominiums. The Browns' patent was later referenced by thirteen other inventors including some as recently as 2013.

Brown was the mother of two children, one of whom, Norma Brown, went on to become a nurse and inventor.





PATRICIA BATH



Patricia Bath was the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology and the first African American female doctor to receive a medical patent. She invented the Laserphaco Probe for cataract treatment in 1986.

Patricia Bath was the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology in 1973. Two years later, she became the first female faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. In 1976, Bath

co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, which established that "eyesight is a basic human right." In 1986, Bath invented the Laserphaco Probe, improving treatment for cataract patients. She patented the device in 1988, becoming the first African American female doctor to receive a medical patent.

Bath was born on November 4, 1942, in New York City's Harlem neighborhood to Rupert Bath, the first Black motorman for the New York City subway system, and Gladys Bath, a housewife and domestic worker who used her salary to save money for her children's education. Bath was encouraged by her family to pursue academic interests. Her father, a former Merchant Marine and an occasional newspaper columnist, taught Bath about the wonders of travel and the value of exploring new cultures. Her mother piqued the young girl's interest in science by buying her a chemistry set.

As a result, Bath worked hard on her intellectual pursuits and, at the age of 16, became one of only a few students to attend a cancer research workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The program head, Dr. Robert Bernard, was so impressed with Bath's discoveries during the project that he incorporated her findings in a scientific paper he presented at a conference. The publicity surrounding her discoveries earned Bath the *Mademoiselle* magazine's Merit Award in 1960.

After graduating from high school in only two years, Bath headed to Hunter College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1964. She then attended Howard University to pursue a medical degree. Bath graduated with honors from Howard in 1968, and accepted an internship at Harlem Hospital shortly afterward. The following year, she also began pursuing a fellowship in ophthalmology at Columbia University. Through her studies there, she discovered that African Americans were twice as likely to suffer from blindness than other patients to which she attended, and eight times more likely to develop glaucoma. Her research led to her development of a community ophthalmology system, which increased the amount of eye care given to those who were unable to afford treatment.

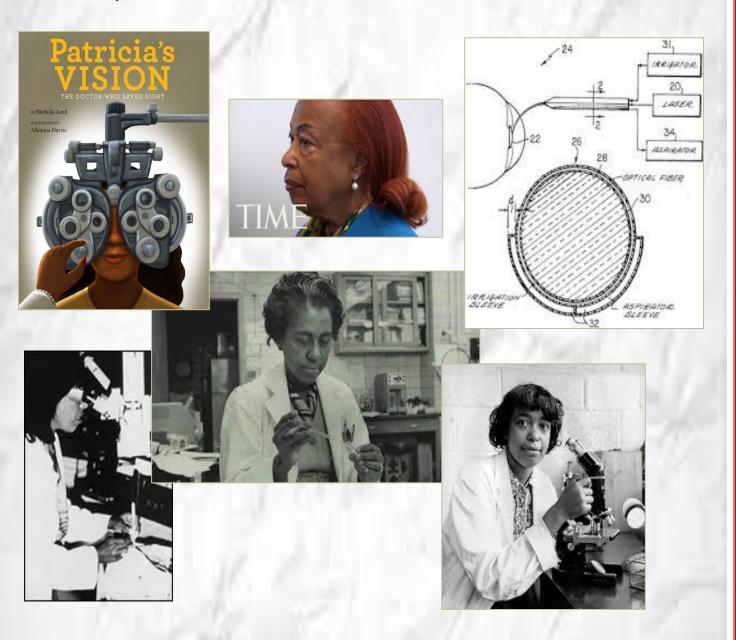
In 1973, Bath became the first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology. She moved to California the following year to work as an assistant professor of surgery at both Charles R. Drew University and the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1975, she became the first female faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute.

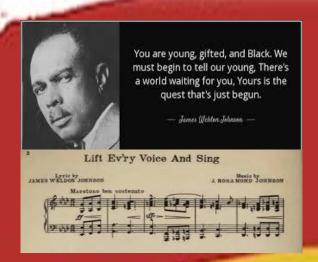
In 1976, Bath co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, which established that "eyesight is a basic human right." By 1983, Bath had helped create the Ophthalmology Residency Training program at UCLA-Drew, which she also chaired—becoming, in addition to her other firsts, the first woman in the nation to hold such a position.

In 1981, Bath began working on her most well-known invention: the Laserphaco Probe (1986). Harnessing laser technology, the device created a less painful and more precise treatment of cataracts. She received a patent for the device in 1988, becoming the first African American female doctor to receive a patent for a medical purpose. She also holds patents in Japan, Canada and Europe. With her Laserphaco Probe, Bath was able to help restore the sight of individuals who had been blind for more than 30 years.

In 1993, Bath retired from her position at the UCLA Medical Center and became an honorary member of its medical staff. That same year, she was named a "Howard University Pioneer in Academic Medicine." Among her many roles in the medical field, Bath was a strong advocate of telemedicine, which uses technology to provide medical services in remote areas.

Bath died on May 30, 2019, in San Francisco, California.





National Black Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee. Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 "My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out ___rs unto God" Job 16:20

4 "Because by them their portion is ____, and their meat plenteous" Hab. 1:16

7 "They shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the " Deut. 18:3

10 Globe

11 "I saw him come cl__ unto the ram" Dan. 8:7

12 "And ___ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" 2 Sam. 20:26

13 "Do we ___ the Lord to jealousy?" 1 Cor. 10:22

15 Saul's grandfather 1 Chron. 8:33

16 "Fear not therefore: ye are of more ___ue than many sparrows" Luke 12:7

_ Lord's Prayer

19 Paradises

21 "Thy ___ made bare" Jer. 13:22

24 "Go not up into the mount, or touch the ___der of it" Ex. 19:12

25 "O Praise the Lord, all ye ions" Psa. 117:1

26 "The Lord...shall lop the with terror" Isa. 10:33

29 "Their persecutors thou threwest into the ___ " Neh. 9:11

31 "Who is worthy to open the k, and to loose the seals thereof?" Rev. 5:2

"__ the way, the truth and the light" John 14:6 (2 wds.)

33 "In thee, O Lord, ___ r my trust" Psa. 31:1 (2 wds.)

35 "For the king of Babylon stood at the ___ of the way" Ezek. 21:21

39 "Stand in ___, and sin not" Psa. 4:4

40 "And Adam called his wife's name ___ " Gen. 3:20

41 "If Satan rise up against himself...he cannot stand, but hath an ___ " Mark 3:26

42 "They came... to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, ___" Matt. 17:24-25

43 "Herod...slew all the children...from two years

old and un___ " Matt. 2:16 44 "Mo__ hid his face: for he was afraid" Ex. 3:6

DOWN

1 "The house of the Lord shall be...in the ___ of the mountains" Mic. 4:1 2 "You do ____, not knowing

the scriptures" Matt. 22:29

3 "The price of wisdom is ___" Job 28:18 (2 wds.)

__ despise wisdom" Prov.

5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ___ of God" Jam.

6 "I am escaped with the skin of my ___ "Job 19:20

7 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of ___" Psa. 23:5 (2 wds.)

8 "For we ___ strangers before thee" 1 Chron. 29:15

9 "They that __ against thee shall be as nothing" Isa. 41:12

14 "How long will ye love _ity" Psa. 4:2

18 "The Lord hath called me

from the womb...and. hath made my mouth like a sharp sword" Isa. 49:1-2

19 Recede

20 "I am the ___r: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" John 10:9

22 "The lot is cast into the __ Prov. 16:33

23 Peter and Paul, e.g. (2 wds.)

27 "Jesus saith unto him, ___ thy way" John 4:50

28 "Faith is the substance of things ___ for" Heb. 11:1

29 More terrible

30 "Take also of the tree of life, and ___, and live forever" Gen. 3:22 33 "Ye may be sincere and

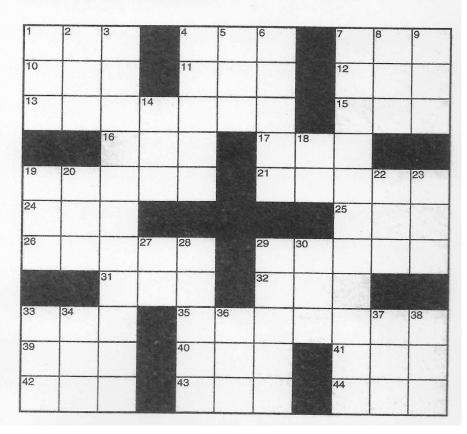
without offence till the __ of Christ" Phil. 1:10

34 "___ no man anything, but to love one another" Rom.

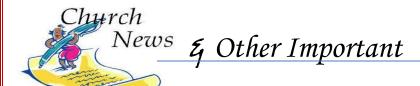
36 "___ Maria"

37 Wind direction (abbr.)

38 Merchandise (abbr.)



June 2020



<u>Youth Department</u> – We are growing by leaps and bounds...

The Youth Ministry is excited to announce that we will be adding a new Preschool Room to our Sunday Youth Church. The Preschool Room will accommodate our 3- and 4-year-old children who are transitioning from the Nursery. We need volunteers to help out in the new room one service a month. If you are interested and gifted in serving with the Preschool Team as they minister God's Word in an age-appropriate environment, please contact Sis. Shevonne Meeks at shevonnemeeks@yahoo.com.

We are also looking for gifted workers in the Pre-K and Elementary Teams on Sundays and at Wednesday Night Bible Study. Please contact Sis. Charlene Benn at cbenn527@gmail.com, or the church office, if you are interested in working with us!

FBC Sunday School on ZOOM! Please join one of our Sunday School classes this Sunday at 9:45 am. We have begun our new Summer Quarter: Wisdom. The second unit offers four lessons, one lesson from each of the four Gospels that examines the wisdom of God seen in the teachings and life of Jesus.

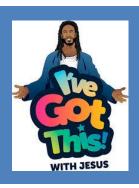
Classes available:

Men's Class Women's Class Marriage Class Conn3ct Class (Young Adults)

Please go to our website at www.fbcduluth.org for the link to the Zoom classes and also join us for Youth Church and Teen Church. See you there!

Sunday school books are available for pick up from the Church office Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm.

Dorian Rogers, Superintendent 4integrityauto@gmail.com; Phone: 770-309-6245



Virtual Vacation Bible School

Iuly 20th - 24th

Please join us for FBC Vacation Bible School. Register online at www.fbcduluth.org.

<u>Transportation Ministry</u> – To request a ride to church, call 770-622-2797 and leave a message by Saturday at 4:00 pm.

ONLINE GIVING

https://abundant.co/fbcduluth/give

Go to fbcduluth.org and click on: "Giving" tab or text: fbcduluth to 73256.

Contributions can also be mailed to:

Friendship Baptist Church P.O. Box 604 Duluth. GA 30096

Neighborhood Announcements

Emergency assistance for seniors is available for those who are over 60. If you or someone you know is over 60 and facing hunger, health, or mobility issues, please call 678-377-4150 to speak with Senior Services staff.

Shape your future START HERE >



The 2020 Census counts everyone. Make sure you're counted! Respond Today at: my2020census.gov.
Deadline extended until October 31.

Gwinnett News

Advance voting for General Primary, Nonpartisan Runoff Election begins July 20



Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections is providing opportunities to cast your ballot before the August 11 runoff election. If you did not vote in the June 9 primary election, you may still vote in this runoff election if you are registered.

Eligible voters may vote advance in person every day, including weekends, from **July 20** to **August 7** at the Voter Registrations and Elections Beauty P. Baldwin Building located at 455 Grayson Highway, Suite 200 in Lawrenceville from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

Satellite voting at four additional sites will begin **August 1** and continue through **August 7** from 7:00am to 7:00pm every day, including weekends. The satellite voting locations are:

- Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford
- George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
- Lenora Park Gym, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
- Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Note the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds will not be an advance voting site for the runoff election.

To check the status of your voter registration and see a sample ballot, visit the Secretary of State's My Voter Page at mvp.sos.ga.gov. For more information or to stay up-to-date with elections in Gwinnett, follow @GwinnettGov on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit GwinnettElections.com.

Ballot drop boxes available for absentee/advance by mail ballot

Gwinnett Voter Registrations and Elections is offering secure ballot drop boxes to provide eligible voters a way to return absentee/advance by mail ballots for the August 11 runoff election. No postage is necessary on ballots placed in the drop boxes.

Eight official ballot drop boxes feature 24-hour surveillance and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week across the county until **August 11** at **7:00pm**. The ballot drop boxes are available at these locations:

- Bogan Park Community Recreation Center, 2723 North Bogan Road, Buford
- Dacula Park Activity Building, 2735 Old Auburn Avenue, Dacula
- George Pierce Park Community Recreation Center, 55 Buford Highway, Suwanee
- Lenora Park Gym, 4515 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
- Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross
- Mountain Park Aquatic Center, 1063 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain
- Shorty Howell Park Activity Building, 2750 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth
- Voter Registrations and Elections Beauty P. Baldwin Building, 455 Grayson Highway, Suite 200 Lawrenceville

Voters may request an absentee/advance by mail ballot for the August 11 General Primary and Nonpartisan runoff election now through **August 7** by **5:00pm**. Please call the Voter Registrations and Elections Office at 678.226.7210 to request an application or complete the form online.





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Answer to puzzle on p.32

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT FRIENDSHIP

	V	VEEKLY					
Bible Study (Adult)	Wednesday	7:30 pm	Sanctuary				
Intercessory Prayer	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary				
Mid-Week Service	Wednesday	12:00 noon	Lower Level Main Building				
New Members' Class	Sunday	9:45 am	Room 209 Family Life Center				
Sunday School	Sunday	9:45 am	Family Life Center				
Sunday School Teachers	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Lower Level Main Building				
Sunday Worship	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary				
Teen Church	Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Heritage Church				
Youth Church Bible Study	Wednesday	7:45 pm	Lower Level Main Building				
	MONTHLY MI	INISTRY MEETII	NGS				
Communication's Ministry	3rd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 135 Family Life Center				
Deacon's Meeting	Tuesday (1st & 3rd)	7:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center				
Education Ministry	2nd Monday	7:00 pm	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg				
Gatekeepers Ministry	4th Saturday	10:00 am	Room 130 Family Life Center				
Gospel Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 1st & 3rd Sunday 7:00 pm						
Health Ministry	2nd Saturday	11:00 am	Room 303 Lower Level Main Bldg				
Male Chorus Preparation	2nd & 4th Saturday	9:30 am	Sanctuary				
Marriage Ministry	3rd Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 9:45 am	Room 239 Family Life Center				
Media Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 130 Family Life Center				
Men's Ministry	1st Saturday	10:30 am	TBA Monthly				
Minister's Meeting	1st Saturday	3:00 pm	Room 232 Family Life Center				
Money Matters	2nd Saturday	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall				
Mother's Ministry	1st Saturday	9:30 am	Room 135 Family Life Center				
Outreach Ministry	3rd Saturday	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall				
Prison Ministry							
Seniors Ministry	4th Saturday	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall				
Shepherd's Care Ministry	3rd Saturday	10:00 am	Room 202 Lower Level Main Bldg				
Singles Ministry	4th Saturday	12:30 pm	Lower Level – Heritage Church				
Usher Ministry	1st Tuesday	7:00 pm	Room 135 Family Life Center				
Women's Ministry	2nd Saturday	8:45 am	Fellowship Hall				
Youth Choir Preparation	Tuesday before 2nd & 4th Sund	ay 6:45 pm					
	SPECIAL MC	NTHLY SERVIC	ES				
Holy Communion	1st Sunday	7:30 & 11:00 am	Sanctuary				
Baptism	3rd Sunday	11:00 am	Sanctuary				
Baby Dedications	4th Sunday	7:30 & 11:00am	Sanctuary				





Communications Ministry

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Friendship Baptist Church has a newly-enhanced website to provide greater communication across all FBC Ministries. Improvements are ongoing. Feedback can be provided to the Communications Ministry at tag49llm@aol.com.

SUBSCRIBE to: www.fbcduluth.org

Articles for the next issue are due: Friday, July 24th, 2020



Mission Statement

Exalt the Savior • Equip the Saint • Evangelize the Sinner

A Purpose-Driven Church

Friendly through Fellowship
Developed through Discipleship
Enlarged through Evangelism
Sharing and Caring through Servanthood
Stronger through God's Word and True Worship

Church Address and Contact Information

3375 Church Lane, Duluth GA 30096

Contact: Rita Bowens, Office Manager @ 770-497-8227

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Email: fbcduluth@att.net
Website: www.fbcduluth.org

Leadership

FBC Associate Ministers

Rev. Ken Blacknell

Rev. Garfield Garner

Rev. Eugene Graves

Min. Shurron Green

Rev. Artis Johnson

Rev. Timothy Twyman

Min. Floyd Williams

Rev. Stan Williams

Rev. Alton Wilson

FBC Ministers of Evangelism

Min. Karen Blacknell

Min. Amelia Brown

Evg. Geneva Burse

Evg. Karen DeLee

Min. Roslyn Long

Evg. Valerie Montaque

Evg. Ruthell Morris

Evg. Kimberly Rogers

Min. Monique Stroman

Min. Nicole Walker

Min. Barbara Williams

Evg. Deloris Williams