



## ON THE COVER

The joy of the Lord emanates from the beautiful and welcoming smile of congregant Ann Malcom during her 03/15/20 photo shoot.

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# A WORD FROM THE WORD PASTOR REGINALD L.ELLIOTT

For whatsoever is born of

God Overcometh the

the world 1 John 5:4

# OVERCOMER

## WHO GOD SAYS**YOU ARE**

he Bible tells us what to expect in life. It tells us that we are living in a world where the masses of people do not recognize or honor God's authority, and it tells us how this came to be. At creation man knew who he was and life was free of

difficulty. However, after sin entered the world life became difficult for Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:16 says that childbirth for Eve would become a sorrowful experience. Genesis 3:17-19 says the ground would be cursed and would henceforth bring forth thorns and thistles causing Adam to have to work by the sweat of his brow. Life became a challenge, something that had to be overcome.

Jesus has come and changed everything

- Pastor Reginald Elliott —

alties of life have only poverty, racism, war, but there is allow entered the earth to see themselve.

Since Eden, the difficulties of life have only multiplied. Sickness, disease, poverty, racism, war, famine, false religion, etc. have entered the earth because of sin and made life almost unbearable for many. The net effect of sin is that it has hid from man the truth of who he was created to be, how he became what he presently is, and what he can yet become. Many spend their whole lives trying to discover who they are. They have not been able to escape the veil of confusion sin has brought into the

world, and have come to believe that they are destined to live their lives bound by the world's systems and beliefs. Is there any real help?

Yes, there is help. Jesus has come and changed everything. Now faith in His death and

resurrection gives new life and new hope to all who believe in Him, and the first truth the gospel seeks to instill is that we are new creations. God knows we are confused about our new identity and our relationship with the world of which we have just come out. So, He tells us in 1 John 5:4, "whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world: and this is our victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." The word

overcomer informs us that not only is there a battle, but there is also the reality of victory. Christians are to see themselves as no longer bound by the systems and beliefs of this world, we are overcomers. We think and act differently because we are different. We are now who God says we are – overcomers. Let that truth possess your being and live as one who is victor. Live your life as an overcomer because that is who God says you are.



he favor of God is evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord. God desires that we delight in, connect with, and give honor to Him. To be perfect toward God means we seek His favor more than we seek the favor of mankind or even ourselves. We gain God's favor by believing in our Lord Jesus Christ. God seeks out those who love Him and follow His commands. He desires to bless, guide, and protect His children (Proverbs 3:5-6)

God's children know that God is with them and nothing can happen to them apart from God's good purpose. We are confident that our sins have been forgiven through the blood of Christ. Those in Christ know that He is for us (Matthew 28:20). We appreciate the physical and spiritual blessings that God provides for our enjoyment. We walk with God realizing He is our closest friend.

The Lord invites us to seek His favor by humbling our hearts before Him. We arrange our lives around loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. God says to seek His kingdom and righteousness first. The righteousness of Christ has been exchanged for the sinfulness of those in Christ. God looks at His children and sees the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ. We find favor with the Lord when we desire to please Him

more than anything or anyone. When we find favor with God, His delight in us will be shown in our words and our deeds.



## CHRISTIAN COMEDY COR

## REMEMBER "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

Proverbs 17:22 (KJV)

created Man and rested. Then God created Woman. Since then, neither God or Man has rested.

#### **SHIRLEY & MARCY**

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son Timmy, walking to school. She wanted to give him a feeling of independence, but she also wanted to know that he was safe.

When she expressed her concern to her neighbor, Shirley offered to follow him to school in the mornings. All week long, Shirley and her daughter followed Timmy as he walked to school with another neighborhood girl.

As the two children walked and chatted, Timmy's friend said, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?" Timmy replied, "Yes I know who she is. That's my mom's friend Shirley Goodnest and her little girl Marcy."

"Well," Timmy explained, 'every night my mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, because she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life.' I guess I'll have to get used to it!'



Tim: At times like this I wish I'd listened to what my mother always said.

Jim: What did she say?

Tim: I dunno. I never listened.



Blesssings 2U, Sister Carolyn Jackson



## SPRINGCLEANING CAROLYNFLEMING, RN

ebirth, Resurrection, Renewal, Rejuvenation these are terms that come to mind when we hear "Springtime". Traditionally it is a time for a fresh start. Snow melts, many flowering plants bloom,

daylight increases. Our bodies naturally want to shed the extra layer of weight we may carry from winter. Think of spring as a time to "spring clean" our digestive systems and our spirits. There are things we can do to assist with this process.

#### WATER

Water does more than quench your thirst and regulate body temperature. It protects your tissues, spinal cord and joints. It helps your body remove waste. It aids in digestion and prevents you from becoming dehydrated.

#### **GREENS**

Green vegetables contain most of the daily vitamins and minerals we need. They have fiber, little or no fat, are cholesterol free and contain a good amount of antioxidants. Greens can be eaten raw, steamed, sautéed, chopped or shredded. The nutrients rid the body of toxins and boost your immune system.

Popeye was right about spinach! It can improve eyesight, heighten cognition and concentration, assist with liver function and assist in maintaining blood pressure (Healthline.com).

## PRAYER & MEDITATION

Meditation helps us to achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state. Prayer is simply talking to God. He loves us and hears us when we pray. If we start by thanking Him and praising Him for His goodness and mercy, it reinforces our need for Him. Additional practices that may help renew our spirits are soothing music and deep breathing exercises in a calm quiet environment.

#### **SWEAT**

As a general goal, aim for at least

30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day (Dept. of Health and Human Services). Reducing sitting time is important. Sitting too much can negatively impact health and longevity (DHHS). If you have difficulty getting in one 30 minute workout, try a few 5 minute walks instead. Any activity is better than none at all.

#### **REST**

"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew11:28). God felt that rest was important. The physical aspects of rest include, cell

regeneration, improved cardiovascular functioning, digestive system rebooting. Rest isn't about being lazy, it is necessary for our health and well being when we are working. Studies have shown that proper amounts of rest reduce the number of sick days employees need (rescuetime.com 2017). Prioritizing rest and vacation time before you burn out is critical for doing your best work and living a healthy life.

and workspace helps build a sense of well being (Healthyliving.com). People tend to be happier and more at peace minus clutter and confusion in their environment.



## **RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS OF SLEEP**

(American Academy of Sleep Medicine)

Children 6-12 years: 9-12 hours per day Teens 13-18 years: 8-10 hours per day Adults 18 and older: 7-8 hours per day

### **CLEANSE**

The obvious benefit of clean surroundings is the reduction of disease transmission. But studies have shown that a tidy, clean environment in your home

"....dearly beloved let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Let us look to the upcoming rebirth and renewal of springtime the way God would have us to approach it. Let us "renew our strength, mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

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FAMILY FOCUS CRYSTAL A. HOOD

n the Old Testament of the Bible, Genesis Chapters 1 and 2, it is recorded that God created mankind male and female. It also tells of the blessings that were given to them. God breathed life into Adam. He created woman from a part of man. They were created in the image and likeness of God. They talked and walked with God daily. They were given authority over everything. They

had a special connection to each other and an intimate personal relationship with God.

At some point the serpent came to the woman and asked her about what God had said regarding the tree of Good and Evil (Genesis 3). Due to the

deceptiveness of this conversation she starts to look at the tree differently than she had before. "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it" (Genesis 3:6 Berean Study Bible).

Their disobedience to God changed their nature away from God's nature. It also changed their perspective of who God said they were. Since they no longer had the amazing connection to God they hid from Him and they were afraid of Him. God,

knowing what has happened, calls out to them. He lovingly covers them and sadly lets them know the effects that their disobedience (sin) will now have on their life. He also assures them that they will be reconciled to Him. Then, He removes them from the Garden of Eden and from His presence (Genesis 3.) Their sin altered everything in regards to their position and intimacy with God, but it did not

distort or remove God's love for them.

John 3:16 tells us that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son that whoever believes on Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Our reconciliation to God comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus did not come

to condemn the world. We are already condemned due to the sinful nature that is in us. Jesus came to reconnect us to God. Think on what mankind originally had. They were formed in the nature of God; they talked directly to God daily; they had authority over everything; they were connected to each other. Sin took all of that away. When we believe that Jesus is the Son of God we gain all of that back. God sees us through Jesus. He says we are His children. He says we have the freedom to come before Him whenever for whatever. God says we are conquerors and in Jesus' name we have power and authority over everything. We no longer need to hide in fear, but are restored to Him.

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One day Jesus was by a well when "a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.' (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 'You are a Jew,' said the woman. 'How can You ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered, 'If you knew the gift of God and who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'" (John 4:7-10 Berean Study Bible)

This woman did not know who was before her. Sin blinded her to who He really was. She saw Him through a perspective that she was unworthy to be spoken too; a person who should be stepped upon and rejected. As Jesus talked to her she experienced God's love and the perspective of who God says she is. God says she is valued; she is loved; she is delivered. All she needs to do is ask and she will be filled completely.

The nature that we are, our sinful nature, blinds us from seeing who God says we are. Even when we come to accept Jesus as our savior that sinful nature and the influence of Satan can hinder us from the deliverance and the blessings that God has for us. In the Garden of Eden Satan's words caused the woman to be deceived. Her perspective shifted



God says she is valued; loved...delivered

Crystal Hood

away from who God said she was and shifted toward who Satan said she should be.

When we accept Jesus as savior we still have a sin nature. Our perspective needs to shift away from what has been imbedded in us to what God says that we are. That transition can only happen when we listen to God's Word, believe it, then act according to the new perspective that we gain through the Holy Spirit.

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n one of the Bible's most often quoted scriptures, Exodus 3:14-15, God told Moses that when the Israelites asked who sent him, he should answer "I AM that I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus

shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord God of your fathers, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

Apart from these, there are seven other I AM statements in the Word of God: I AM the Bread of Life; I AM the Light of the World; I AM the Door or the Gate; I AM the Good Shepherd; I AM the Resurrection and the Life; I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life; and I AM the True Vine.

These statements give us a glimpse into who God is to us. The question for each of us today is: "Who does God say I Am?"

This question was posed to Columbia Community Church congregant Ann Malcolm. Upon hearing this quarter's theme, Ann could barely contain herself. She answered fervently, "God says I am truly blessed and highly favored. I am a child of God for He has blessed me so many, many, many times. God watches out for His children."

Listening to the emotionally charged accounts of Ann's journey with God, we can understand why she so readily uttered these words. In uncertain times like these, in the face of a worldwide pandemic, the threat of a stock market

collapse and the resulting unstable economy, our hearts and minds could easily be overcome with fear. However, it is comforting to know that there are those among us, like Ann Malcolm, who have endured and overcome great difficulty with the help of God.

Ann cautions that in order to be blessed we must not be fearful because, *Fear* will take away our *Faith*. On the other hand, Ann reports that she has gone through the fire many times, but because she has held on to her faith, she has come out untouched.

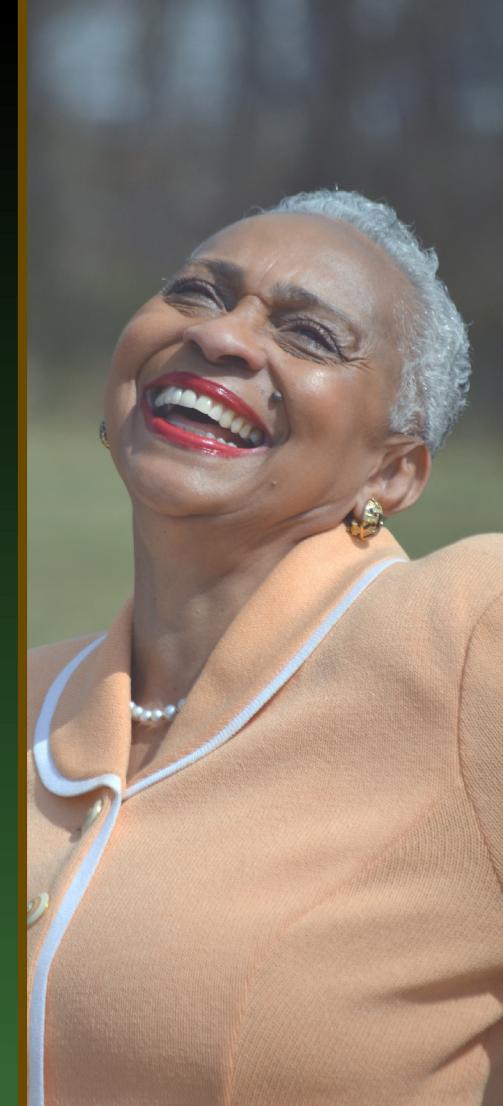
(Continued on Page 11)

amhappily single ...l believe this is WHAT GOD

> for my life

Ann Malcolm







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In exercising her faith in God, Ann Malcolm has lived, and unconsciously developed a few I Am statements during this interview:

#### I Am Blessed

Ann shared stories about how the Lord has blessed her in ways she cannot explain through adversities and triumphs in the lives of her children. She talked about a time while she was going through an extremely difficult situation with her daughter. Initially she could not see

that God was using these circumstanc es to resolve longstanding problem. One day while she was going through this trial, she was alone at home, and she clearly heard the voice of the Lord encouraging her with

these words: "Didn't I answer your prayers?" Until that point Ann had not realized that God was blessing her and her daughter in the midst of the situation. They were living the answer to the prayer that she had been waiting for over many years.

In the same manner, God used adversity to bless Ann's son and placed him on the path to success. Today Ann's son is successful in his career, but more importantly, he is a great son and wonderful father to her grandchildren who are just the kind that she wants.

The Lord has also blessed Ann financially and has put her in a position to assist family members. She states that others have remarked at her ability to purchase multiple properties as a single woman. She reveals by her lived life that if you freely give your tithe, you will be able to say as she does: "I am blessed."

#### I Am Healed

Ann shared how she faced a health challenge about two years ago. She went for a routine physical and the doctor's office called her back to schedule a follow up visit to discuss a negative result from one of her screenings. Since she was, and is in good health, Ann was convinced this was just a way for them to make more money. However, she went back to the doctor and was given a diagnosis. She underwent the recommended treatment. Ann recently received a clean bill of health, or as she states: "I am healed."



## I Am Happy/Satisfied and Content

It has often been said that happiness is a choice. Happiness is an experience of frequent positive thoughts, such as joy, interest or pride. Satisfaction is the pleasure derived from the fulfilment of one's wishes, expectations or needs. On the other hand, contentment is a longer lasting and deeper feeling of satisfaction and gratitude. Ann has experienced each of these sentiments in her life.

Ann noted that she is happily single. While some may dwell on it, looking back on her experiences, Ann shared that she believes that this is what God wants for her life, as she has had more than one opportunity to remarry. She has learned to be content with what she has accomplished in her life and where she is today.

Additionally, Ann looks at the life of daughter and is satisfied with where she is today. She is proud of her son's accomplishments and is very pleased with her grandchildren. Her grandson recently spoke at his grandfather's funeral and was able to articulate that his "Grandpa still lives - he is not gone," acknowledging that there is indeed life after death. It is important to Ann that her grandson is aware of that fact. No matter the ages of our children and grandchildren, we all want to ensure that they are doing well. As such, Ann is now able to say: "I am happy, satisfied and content."

### I Am Thankful

Ann sees God's hand in her present job at a law firm. She started as a temporary worker and has remained there for more than thirty years. While she stated that she is not a lawyer, the managing attorneys admit that she does in fact run things. In fact, one of the partners recently expressed that they hope she's not planning to retire anytime soon.

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As a friend of Rose Mitchell, Ann's first introduction to Columbia Community Church was at the church picnic. She indicated that Sister Elliott was so gracious to her that she started coming to church services when Columbia Community Church was worshipping at Wilde Lake.

Ann does not hold back her joy about the blessings of the Lord. She talks about the church so much at work that on Monday mornings, her co-workers often ask: "What did Pastor Elliott preach about yesterday?" She was previously Catholic and has on occasion visited other ministries and enjoyed the music during services and special events. Yet, when she thinks about Columbia Community Church and the Word that Pastor Elliott preaches, Ann says: "I am thankful."

## I Am a Child of God, I Am Covered and **Protected**

The Lord encourages us to see Him as our Father. (Continued on Page 13)

Ann related a time when, after she had seventeen years of tenure on her job, she was being persecuted by a co-worker. This lasted for an entire year. During that time, Ann's thoughts were, "I am blessed and you can't take away my blessing". Eventually, this woman was fired herself. The same thing has happened to her a number of times, each with the same result, God has protected her. Ann's son has remarked, "Don't mess with Queen Ann Bee". Additionally, in today's economy, Ann looks around at others who have had their work hours and overtime opportunities cut, but not hers. In situations such as these, Ann can say: "I am a Child of God, I am Covered, and I am Protected."

## I Am Prayerful

Recognizing the power in communing with God,

Ann prays always for her family and friends, and especially for her children. Family and friends who come to visit her remark that her house has a certain energy that is very positive. She believes it's because as she approaches her home, she rebukes the devil and any demonic forces in her house. She praises God as she enters. One day a little boy heard her praying through an open window and asked her if she would please pray for him.

Ann shared how she prays for the son of a friend. She and her friend were recently able to comfort each other as their children had similar health challenges. Ann notes that she prays wherever, anywhere. She likes to walk alone in the summer

I am blessed and you can't take away my blessing.

Ann Malcolm







months so that she can commune with God as she prays. She uses that as her time to connect with God. When she prays, she asks God to fill her with Holy Spirit. Others have remarked when she is praying, she in her own world. She can truly admit: "I am prayerful."

## I Am Filled with the Spirit

Ann knows that you don't play with God. She prays constantly for God to fill her with the Holy Spirt. She remembers at least two times in her life when she was truly filled with the Spirit. Once while she was at work, the Spirit just took over and she felt herself just spinning around in the kitchen. She had a similar experience at home. While she cannot explain it, Ann is able to report: "I am filled with the Spirit."

## I Am Changed

Ann reports that she is not the same as she used to be. At one time she was Catholic. Prior to coming to Columbia Community Church, she didn't attend church regularly. She enjoyed musical events, but it really didn't matter to her whether she went to church or not. Now, under the teaching of Pastor Elliott, she does not like to miss church. It sounds to me that her testimony is: "I am changed."

### I Am at Peace

In today's chaotic world, peace is a well sought after but elusive commodity for some. Psalm 4:8 provides us with hope, "In peace will I lie down and sleep, for you alone Lord make me dwell in safety." It appears that Ann has found the path to peace. While so many people have trouble resting, Ann reports that she sleeps very well at night. She doesn't worry about material things, no concerns about bills or credit because God has blessed her.

Another reason that allows Ann to be at peace is the fact that she gets along well with her superiors. Others are surprised that she doesn't hold grudges. She says she has "big fights" at work but she leaves them at work. She forgives easily and starts over afresh each day. That really messes with others. In one instance she had a less than pleasant encounter with one of the managers at her firm. The next day, he kept trying to apologize. Ann kept telling him there was no problem and didn't him a chance to say he was sorry. Ann's son must constantly to remind her to allow people to apologize. Ann's position is that you must release things as they will tear you up inside. Ann has earned the right to say: "I Am at Peace."

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## I Am Trusting in God

Ann talked about how she came to work at her current law firm. When she moved from Howard County years ago, Ann decided to change careers. She completed the necessary educational courses and started with a temp agency. The staff was disrespectful and discriminated against her. She left without another assignment. When the managing partner asked where she was going to work, she told him God will provide. He scoffed at her response, but she believed God. She received another assignment and has worked at that the job for more than 30 years. She looks back and is amazed how awesome God is.

Ann has no problem sharing that with her co-workers. At one point, they told her she needs to be careful about talking about God. She was very clear that no one could stop her from about talking about the Lord. As it turns out, there is a manager at Ann's firm who professes salvation. He has told Ann he appreciates it when she tells him that she prays for him.

These experiences exemplify why Ann can say: "I Am Trusting in God."

#### I Am Loved

Ann revealed that she is the youngest of seven



children and the only girl. Of course, that means she was "spoiled" by her brothers, especially after her father passed when she was eleven. She is surrounded by a large family and many friends. In addition to her children and brothers, Ann has more than twenty nieces and nephews in the area.

Born in Jamaica, Ann came to the United States at age eighteen, and lived in Brooklyn for eight years. There were many Jamaicans living in New York, so she was very comfortable there. When she moved to Columbia, she found the area much quieter than New York, and not very welcoming. Her advice to others, if you move to another city, is to start visiting a church in the area. Churches, while not perfect, will take you under their wings and you will make friends. Ann has lived in the area for 43 years and has watched Columbia change.

Ann shared her age, which surprised the interviewers. Truly "Black Don't Crack". Last year, Ann celebrated her 70th birthday by hosting a party in Kingston, Jamaica. God went ahead of her and allowed her to get a deep discount through a niece she didn't know was a friend of the owner of the venue of choice. She used that event to thank those who helped her become who she is today, including her older brother who served as a surrogate father and supported her financially as she grew up. One friend, an attorney, flew to





Jamaica on Saturday night and returned on Sunday morning just to attend the party. That same friend was buying a new car and gave her car to Ann for her daughter. She didn't know that Ann's daughter had revealed that her radiator had just gone up. Under these circumstances, Ann can't help but to say: "I Am Loved."

I Am Ann Malcolm

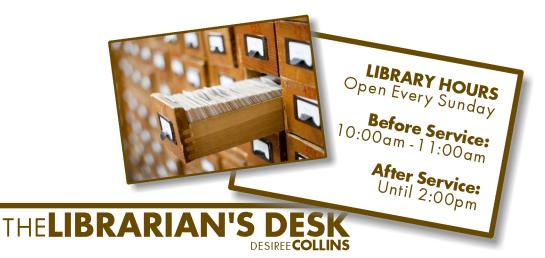
Favorite Scriptures: II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith". Ephesians 6:2 is in remembrance of the loss of two of Ann's brothers, "Honor thy mother and thy father: (which is the first commandment with promise)". John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you". Psalm 23 and Psalm 91 are also among Ann's favorite scriptures.

Favorite Song: "Walk Around Heaven All Day"...Ann enjoys hearing Earl Slacum sing the song!

Bucket List: Ann wants to go to Portugal. She went to Morocco last year.

After a full hour of getting to know Ann Malcolm, I asked her to finish this statement with one word:





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## **EXERCISE YOUR FAITH...READ!**

## **Library Update**

2020 ushered in many exciting changes for the Church Library. First of all we want to thank Sister Glenna Green for her many years of service and her leadership role in establishing and maintaining the library. Her service has been invaluable. She will be missed.

The library welcomes Sister Carla Taliaferro and Sister Kelsey Hood as Co-Head Librarians currently. Other staff members include Sisters Carolyn Jackson, Sandra Braxton-Riley, Loreece Basnight, Dorothy Keel, Wanda Brown, Yvette Bellamy, Desiree Collins and Brother Khalari Perdue. All of whom are willing and able to serve your needs in the library.

We have removed many books due to age and outdated content and are offering them free to our congregation. This has helped open up valuable space for new material and interior decorating plans. One of our main objectives is to improve on how we do business in this "Digital Age". The library will have its own web link so that members can access CCC from their personal computer at their convenience. This new software will also allow you to preview various material at your leisure, in addition to allowing members to request publications and place material on hold such as

DVDs and CDs. This will enable librarians to prepare your order for pick up on Sunday without extensive delay.

Our library currently has so many wonderful resources available for your use and with the new changes it will be even better. Our plan is to make the library welcoming and inviting, a place to linger and stay a while if you desire.

We have many wonderful ministries in our Church serving the needs of the community and congregation, and in order to compliment these ministries we plan on implementing a "Resource Service" area as needed or requested for information dedicated to support the services they provide (i.e. mental health, caregivers, etc). Other ideas include rochures, "Featured Book of the Quarter", and "Meet Your CCC Author of the Ouarter" talks.

We are excited and we want you to be too. We can always use more dedicated workers to work in the Library Ministry. If you are interested please contact Sisters Carla Taliaferro, Kelsey Hood or Carolyn Jackson.

Be sure to check the information desk for more updates and information about our Grand Reopening.

Remember: Exercise your Faith...Read!



In order to understand who God says we are, we must first understand who God Himself is. That quest for understanding is the foundation for all Christian exploration – the desire to know God and His desire for us. We know that God created us, and we know that God loves us, but the true quest

lies in our purpose in

God's ultimate plan.
Our role in this plan is faith in His beloved son Jesus Christ, and the power bestowed upon us through Him and the Holy Spirit – and following this path will lead us to our ultimate victory.

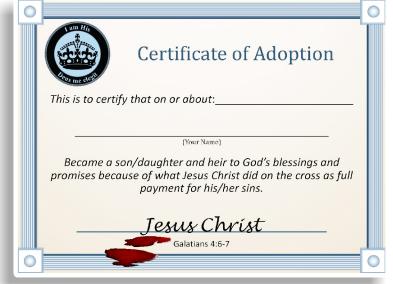
To try to explain who God is would take

hundreds of pages to even begin to explore, but the truth of what we know about God is that He is both ultimate love and ultimate justice. God's love is so deep and true that it is His actual essence – God Himself *is* Love. Our perception of love (whether it be from one to another or back to God) is a reflection of His initial love for us. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because He first loved us." God loves us so much that He not only gave His only begotten Son for us, but He *also calls us His* 

*children*. However much you think you love your children as a parent, God loves us as His children even more than that.

If we are God's children along with Jesus Christ, what is our role, then? Who are we? Well, the answer to that is simple. God has called us to be

little Christs
(Christians) and to
spread the Gospel –
Good News – to the
world. That Good
News is that Jesus
Christ has paid the
cost for salvation, and
that through faith in
Him we are "saved".
What does it mean to
be saved? It means
that we have a



wonderful home in Heaven filled with the endless of love of God, and that it costs us absolutely nothing to accept it. Isn't that the greatest love in the world?

God says He will never leave you nor forsake you. God says you are loved eternally. God says you are His child – destined to reign with Him in Heaven if you live according to His Will.

## WHATIF? WINNIELGFRANCE-CHAMBERS

astor Elliot was preaching one Sunday about how he was called to be a pastor. I had heard the story a few times before, but what I didn't know was that he considered himself and was considered by others as a shy person. To know that someone "shy" stands in front of crowds every Sunday with such a powerful, thunderous voice, really resonated with me. What if Pastor Elliott didn't answer the call to ministry? In whose church would we all be sitting? Many people in this world can't step outside of who they believe they are, or who others say they are, to take God's call to action. This is a prime example of how we are who God says we are despite how we may feel. Our purpose is connected to the lives of others and God will direct you and guide you along the way. It can be more difficult for some than others to overcome ourselves to become the version God created us to be, but I encourage everyone to pray and commit to God; taking a leap of faith towards whatever the first steps may be.

There is a book I love called, "God's Promises For Your Every Need" by Dr. A. L. Gill. Bible verses are categorized by topic in a small book that you can fit in a purse or sit on your dashboard in the car. Price ranges from \$3.00 - \$6.00.



# "In as much as ye have done unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40



In 2019, the women of Columbia Community Church began to carry out the vision Sis. Elliott had for us, to go beyond the church walls and to serve those in need. Posted in the Fellowship Hall are over fifteen organizations that were contacted and welcomed our participation as volunteers. Our women are currently volunteering at the following organizations: Howard County Food Bank - their mission is to assist low income families with food and household products as they come into shop in a store-like facility; our church contact for this ministry is Sis. Bernadette Hockaday 443-280-0074; God's Giving Hands - a Christian organization that provides food, clothing, and toiletries to homeless and needy people in Baltimore, also helping with housing and furnishings; the support already given by the church has been greatly appreciated. There are several members of CCC that serve on the third Sunday of the month at two locations in Baltimore. Our church contact for this ministry is Bro, Wilfred Crawley 609-816-9198; the Helping Up Mission - a Christ-centered organization that provides housing and restoration for men who need freedom from addictions and other problems; this mission provides Christ-centered counseling, education and training, which helps the men re-establish themselves in society. The contact for this ministry is Sis. Brenda Manokey 410-493-4283; the USO - an organization formed to provide a place of comfort for the men and women that serve our country. There are two

locations in this area – BWI Airport and Fort Meade. The church contact is **Sis. Theresa Heard 410-961-5469**; **Sarah's House** – a shelter for families and single adults; the volunteers serve a delicious meal that is prepared by the church. The contact for this ministry is **Sis. Cherylene Beck 443-538-5655 or cdbeck@hcpss.org**; **the Nursing Home Ministry**, led by **Sis. Cindy Rooths** since 2001; presently the ministry is at Morningside House in Ellicott City and Summit Park in Catonsville on a monthly basis. Sis. Rooths can be contacted at **410-952-1039**.

Ladies, you are invited to join us and share in the joy we experience when helping others. You are welcome to speak with any of the contact people above regarding these mentioned opportunities; for any other ministries that appear on the board located in the Fellowship Hall, please contact **Sis.** 



Photos Courtesy of: Brenda Manokey, Cindy Rooths, & Wilfred Crawley

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## The Fowler's Snare

## FEATURED ARTICLE

"As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus answered: '...You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come...' All these are the beginning of birth pains...For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-and never to be equaled again" (Matthew 24:3, 4, 6, 8, and 21 NIV)

ow hard is it not to be alarmed with the news of Coronavirus (COVID19). As of February 29, 2020 at 10:40 p.m. Eastern Standard Time the Coronavirus cases totaled 85,207, and 2,924 recorded deaths. Currently, 42,795 live, infected patients, 7,816 persons serious or critical, 34,979 are considered in mild condition. At 11:00 p.m. on Friday, 28, 2020 there are 65 confirmed cases of infected persons, one of which is unconfirmed as to how they became infected within the borders of what we call the United States of America.

It is in times like these it's extremely important to know who you are. If you are a child of God there is much, much, much hope and good news:

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest (have peace) in the shadow of the Almighty (He who is above all things). I (a Christian) will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.' Surely, He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will NOT come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.



If you say, 'The LORD is my refuge,' and you make the Most High your dwelling no harm will overtake you. No disaster (including coronavirus) will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. 'Because he/she loves me,' says the LORD, 'I will rescue him (her). I will protect him (her) for he (she) acknowledges my Name. He (She) will call on me, and I will answer him (her); I will be with him (her) in trouble, I will deliver him (her) and honor him (her). With long life I will satisfy him (her) and show him (her) my salvation" (Psalm 91 NIV).

Just as Christians do not grieve the loss of loved ones like the rest of mankind who have no hope, Christians should not live their lives as if they have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Heaven and earth may pass away but God's Word will never return void. God's Word is true. "The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only He will release my feet from the snare" (Psalm 25:14-15).

Do not be alarmed, dwell in the shelter of the Most High and rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Every man, woman, and child who are in God's Will are immortal until God is done with them. The world has no power or authority over the Most High God nor does the circumstances of this life trump God's plans.



## SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

"So there are no longer two but one flesh" Mark 10:8b

od sees a married couple as a man and a woman becoming one and willing to serve each other, and not two self-directed individuals. The recent Celebrate Marriage event featured a video presentation by Rev. Dan Lian entitled "Some *Things Never Change."* He stressed three themes for successful marriage. First, the design is good because the Designer (God) is good; we must trust the Designer. Secondly, success in marriage requires persistently working on your marriage and building a strong spiritual base from the Word of God. This means continuing to invest in your marriage with the same love and devotion as you had from the beginning. Lack of attention to your marriage will lead to disinterest and loss of affection in your marriage. Thirdly, it is never too late; Rev. Lian shared his parents' pattern of neglect in their marriage of 30 years and their subsequent decision to divorce. After several years and much prayer, the Holy Spirit drew them back together. The pastor had the opportunity to rejoice in their recommitting to do things God's way as he presided over their remarriage some eight years later. Some things never change, especially believing God's promises and following His plan. There is hope in marriage.





#### **COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CHURCH**

8516 Thomas Williams Way P.O. Box 2292 Columbia, MD 21045

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### EVERY SUNDAY:

10:00 AM Church School (All Ages)11:00 AM Meditation & Prayer11:15 AM Morning Worship

### COMMUNION SERVICES

1st Sunday of Every Month

## EVERY WEDNESDAY:

Noon-Day Prayer 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Noon-Day Bible Study 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Evening Prayer 07:30 PM - 08:00 PM Evening Bible Study 08:00 PM - 09:00 PM

#### TST & STO WEDNESDAYS:

Youth Bible Study 07:00 PM - 08:00 PM

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **CARE & COMFORT MINISTRY**

Sis. Linda M. Byrd: 410-313-9673 / Sis. Donna Givhan / 410-997-3276 columbiamdcareandcomfort@gmail.com

#### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

Phone: 410-465-7040 / Fax: 410-465-0943 Church Website: www.columbiaccmd.org

#### **CHURCH LIBRARY**

Open Every Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM and after service until 2:00 PM