

NOVEMBER 2023

THE
KINGDOM PRESS
"MISSION OF
GOD"



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HOLY CONVOCATION 2023



Pastor: Bishop Michael Cook
First Lady: Evangelist Barbara Cook
WWW.NEWGRACETEMPLE.COM

VOLUME 04

Photos by NGT
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Reaghan Jones

“The Holy Convocation”



Order Of Service

Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Morning worship ..11:00 a.m
Noonday Prayer..Wed .
Bible Study ... Wed 7:00 p.m

Radio Ministry

***Every Sunday at 2:00
p.m. on WYNN
98.5 FM and 540AM
3:30pm on 105.1***

Television

Broadcast

***Every Sunday at
5:30 am on Fox
Channel 7 WFXB***



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In September, we got the delightful opportunity to attend our annual Holy Convocation. The Spirit of the Lord was welcomed in and the saints reached a new level in the spirit- literally. During this year's meeting, we had several people to elevate and answer the call to the assignment given to them. We give God the glory and honor for allowing the people of God to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and for them to yield themselves without hesitation. The CAGE fellowship included King of Kings World Outreach Ministry, Victory Faith Outreach Ministry, and New Grace Temple Ministries; where the pastors are Elder Charles Wright, Pastor and Co-Pastor Rick Jackson, and Bishop Michael Cook, respectively. These mighty people of God have united to push a people to a greater dimension. We believe that the hand of the Lord rests firmly on each of their lives and we are grateful for the teaching, preaching, and correction that has gotten us to this point. Without their leadership, our brothers and sisters may not have received the assignment for the Kingdom.

Each of the classes that were taught and the messages that were preached left the saints with a fire to do more. One of our brother's said, "This year's convocation quickened me. I have a desire and a will to increase my faith in the Lord. He may not move when I am expecting Him, but He has and never will fail me. That lets me know that I cannot give up on Him." Another brother said, "This is by far the best Convocation that I've attended. I am still full of the Word that I received each night. I am looking forward to what the Lord has in store, not only for me and my family but for CAGE as a unit."

For the women of God, the teaching was just as powerful. A sister stated, "I now understand why my warfare has been so strong. The enemy

“Holy Convocation cont”



does not want me to make it to the Holy of Holies, because he knows that is where my power and authority is. I'm going to keep fighting until I make it there." Another woman of God expressed, "I have never been so convicted by the Word of God. I know for a fact the Word that came forth was for me. Even a month later, I am still ruminating on how it identified with me." This is the reaction that the Lord is looking for; conviction, repentance, and reconciliation!

With a changed heart and mind, then and only then will our hearts be in the correct posture to fully receive from and obey God. The assignment on our lives for the Kingdom of God is the most important assignment a child of God will ever have. The question is, are we spiritually prepared to take the step forward? Several individuals decided that they were prepared and made the decision to

commit the next chapter of their lives to pushing the Kingdom forward in the manner which they've been called.

Those who were elevated at this year's Convocation included: Quintin Jones II to the office of Elder, Marashea Davis to the office of Missionary, and Rodney Davis to the office of Minister (NGT). From King of Kings, Enrico Woods, Titus Echols, and Elaine Nero, all to Minister. We bless the name of the Lord for their willingness to sew themselves into the Kingdom of God. We believe that the hand of the Lord will rest steadily upon them.

-NGT Reporter, Kwamesha P.

“Church Picnic”



“Seafood Boil at the Park”

In August, several of our families both big and small gathered for a feast and fellowship in Charleston, SC. We arrived comfortably dressed for the warm weather with hats, fans, and bellies empty to indulge in the all-you-can-eat crab legs. In addition, we enjoyed the BBQ, grilled food, seafood rice, and sweet watermelon. All the children ran and played on the grass and the volleyball court. They played football, bingo, tug of war, and competed in a sack race. So much fun and laughter! The adults played bingo as well and took home some winning prizes. We looked in amazement as the card players yelled and exclaimed their winning hand in victory. Amongst the excitement and good food was the fellowship with our NGT family. Bishop often reminds us that, “the good time belong to the saints!” And we truly made sure we had a good time.

-NGT Reporter, Ke’Aira Primes

“Men of Grace & Youth Putt Putt”



What is bonding? According to Merriam Webster's dictionary, bonding is the formation of a close relationship, especially through frequent or constant association. Therefore, it is important that adults live a life according to the will of Jesus to bridge the “gap” between generations now and in the future. By doing this, the older generation can teach the younger generation, that fun does not have to stop when one becomes a Christian, but it can continue in a pure and innocent way. It will not jeopardize their safety, security, or their dignity. Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) commands us to: Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it. With that being said, the trials and tests of life will come, and one will have to decide, should I or shouldn't I. One must also be able to distinguish the truth from a lie. Therefore, without proper guidance, or someone noble to look up to, the younger generation(s) will be lost, destitute, and vulnerable forever, to the hands of the devil.

On July 29, 2023, Men of Grace set out on a mission, continuing to build their relationship with the Young Men of Grace by traveling to Columbia, South Carolina to Frankie's Fun Park and Myami Japanese Restaurant. At Miyami, there was a lot of food, and it was cooked in front of the young men. On a personal note, I can hear some of them saying, “oooh, ahhh,” and even clapping as the chef did different tricks, while cooking their rice, vegetables, and meat of choice. Some of the young men have not had this experience before, but I believe that they will remember it for the rest of their lives. There was miniature golf, golf cart riding, video games, Frankie's Fun Park and much, much, more.

There was wisdom spread throughout this bonding moment. This gave the young men a different aspect on life that empowered their decision makings. There are things that the young men shared about experiences at school or in other environments that was startling and alarming. However, the best advice or information shared to them came straight from the WORD OF GOD, through matured Men of God, which gave the young men peace. I pray information shared led them to repentance and complete a change of heart.

There are positive effects of male bonding in a man's life such as: less likelihood of social isolation (which can lead to stress related illnesses, isolation, addiction, suicide, divorce and violence). (Less likelihood of Alzheimer's, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, neurodegenerative diseases, and even cancer.) There's greater success in men's personal and professional lives, increased resources and resiliency in times of crisis; stronger connection with family, peers and themselves, greater peace of mind and sense of purpose.

Without a doubt deep and genuine male friendships are vital for men. It is not about how many friends you have, though - it has much more to do with the depth and quality of the relationship itself.

NGT Reporter, Tawan Wilson

“Ladies Tea Party”

Pearls & Lace Soiree

Some were clothed in fancy vintage dresses, gloves, and fasteners. Some were clothed in floral prints, pastel colors, and lipstick. All the ladies gathered beautifully and elegantly dressed for the occasion. We enjoyed laughter, tons of pictures, and delicious treats. Though we were in a building the décor and atmosphere felt like we were in a garden, in the spring, full of blooming bright flowers. A couple of us watched our figure and ate fruit, light on the sweets, and sipped tea with honey. The rest of us didn't hold back and enjoyed every bit of the yummy cakes, cookies, and pastries. Everything was delectable, from the variety of teas to the ham and cheese squares, and juicy fruit. We look forward to the fellowship at the next *Ladies of Grace Tea Party!*

- *“The fellowship and different colors were amazing and the food was outstanding.” Sister, Castine Jones*

-NGT Reporter, Ke'Aira Primes



“Casualties of War”

The Vigilant Soldier

For several months, New Grace Temple has been learning about the importance of being a watchful, intentional, and resilient soldier. From the topic, “Casualties of War,” Elder T. Jones has been teaching the ministry the benefits of being battle-ready and the negative impact of when our armor hasn’t been proven. Having the double-edged sword and shield of faith is simply not enough.

Every soldier in the army of the LORD needs the helmet of salvation; a transformed mind by meditating on the Word of God. The breastplate of righteousness is needed so we will not fall to the temptations of the world; we won’t become chameleons and change who we are to match our environment, or to please people. We need to be going about with truth to bring conviction to those who are still wayward. As we all know, it is the truth that makes us free. Next, we need feet that are ready to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, no matter where we go. Finally, we must be ready to verbalize our commands in battle. As we make supplication to the LORD, He will equip us with strategies on how to defeat the enemy.

Coming from the base scriptures of Judges 17:6 and Isaiah 5:18-23, we understand that there must be a strategy in place to win the spiritual war; the active and ongoing struggle between our flesh and spirit. Going through life every day without a real commitment to the Saviour is a sure way to be overtaken on the spiritual battlefield. We are sure to become a casualty- a person or thing injured, lost, or destroyed- if we insist on caring more about the things of the world than the affairs of the Kingdom of Heaven. As saints of the Most High, we cannot be so concerned with ourselves that we forfeit the mission of God and miss the opportunity for Him to reveal His glory.

To bring this into a better perspective, Elder Jones used the term to describe this as Me-ism. This term describes the person who makes every situation about himself/herself. A preoccupation or obsession with one’s self. It even hints towards narcissism, which is a grandiose sense of self. Isaiah 14:12 “The Gospel of Me-ism” is subtle and deceptive; the same as satan. Me-ism wants to be recognized to an extent that is spiritually toxic. Me-ism wants the attention of the leader or the person of influence in the room. Me-ism protects the self at all costs. Me-ism is easily offended, even by the smallest comment. Me-ism was also taught to be the cousin of moralism. Moralism is the tendency to make judgments about other’s morals. This mindset is fueled by conviction. A person who is caught up in me-ism must live life on his own terms; this includes his Christian servitude. It affects how we come to church and the manner we sow ourselves to the Kingdom of God; if we do it at all. It was expressed that feelings are very important to the Me-ism of God. This mindset is rooted in pride, egoism, and arrogance; all characteristics of a true narcissist. With this in mind, we take a look at our first example in this lesson.

King Nebuchadnezzar developed a sense of me-ism and placed his power and authority above the LORD God Almighty. He immediately paid the price for his foolishness and became as a beast in the field until seven years had passed. The LORD took his pride and arrogance and brought the king down to a low place. His humiliation is what brought about a change in his heart. It took the LORD turning him into a madman before the king realized that there is no God, but Yahweh. We would do well to examine ourselves to see if we have a heart likened to King Nebuchadnezzar or one that resembles the heart of King Jesus. He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. He would not hesitate to bring us to a low place if we ever believed that we could challenge Him.

As a born-again believer in Christ Jesus, this should never be the mentality that we adopt. We should always be willing to be a mouthpiece for the Lord, eschewing evil, and pursuing holiness at every turn. This includes warning those who insist on living for their pleasures and according to their own wills. We ought to sound the alarm and cry out against everything that does not glorify the LORD Jesus Christ. Without warning, how will one know he is living unworthy of the LORD’s favor? Ezekiel warns us about not warning the people when we know destruction is sure ahead. If you knew a rattlesnake was beside the road, wouldn’t you warn your brother, sister, or friend to take heed of the danger lying ahead? Well, in the spiritual sense, it is no different.

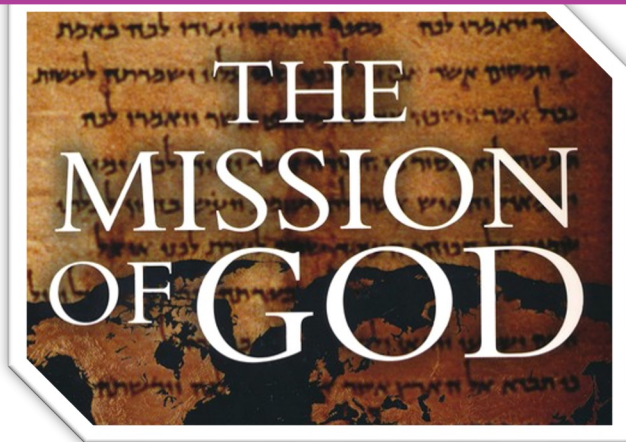
“Casualties of War cont.”

We should love our brothers and sisters enough to warn them of the pending misery that awaits them if true repentance does not happen. Will we stand by and allow the army of the LORD to sustain more casualties than gained victories? God forbid!

So then, with that being said, the question arises, what hinders us from sounding the alarm? Is it that our conduct outside of the church building causes us to lose our witness? Is it that if we sound the alarm, we'd place ourselves under the same judgment? How can we cry out and warn the people of danger if we are not in a position to hear Him speak? The judgment will consume the sinner and the ungodly, and the blood will be on our hands.

NGT Reporter - Kwamesha P.

The Mission of God



“My Meat Is to do the Will of My Father.”

Bishop Cook has been teaching from the series, “The Mission of God.” We understand that there are many missions of God but the sole purpose of them all is to glorify God. For us to know the specific tasks God has charged us with, whether individually or as a group we must have a relationship with God. We must know His nature and His character; we must be intimate with our God. As Ambassadors of Christ, we must live a life set apart for God’s use. God created us to reveal His glory. *1 Chronicles 29:11, Thine O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine...*

Each day our mission should be going after the kingdom of God and His righteousness, *Matthew 6:33*. Throughout the word of God, we have a plethora of those whom God chose to complete a specific task. Noah (*Rest*), Moses (*Deliverer*), Jonah (*Dove*), Joseph (*God shall add*), and many others. We shouldn’t disregard what God has instructed us to do. When we disregard what God has instructed us to, we hinder the glory of God and as a result, we reap the consequences. As we strive to live a life submitted to God, it should never be about us. Our purpose is to do the will of the one who sent us. May we give all the glory to our Father in heaven! *John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

– “This series has had a great impact on my life. It’s caused me to examine my life to ensure I am fulfilling God’s mission in my life.” Missionary, Marashea Davis

-NGT Reporter, Ke’Aira Primes

“Round Table Broadcast”



The Round Table Ministry is a setting where a host of clergy men and women of God, which consists of ministers, elders, evangelists, and Bishop Michael Cook come together and discuss topics through the word of God. Although the table is not “round. The clergymen and women usually meet in the sanctuary of New Grace Temple. The Round table is open to the public. The team encourages individuals in New Grace Temple to come out and take part. The Round Table meetings are recorded for the radio, 98.5FM and 105.1 FM; also for our television broadcast WFXB Fox TV; broadcasting to surrounding communities and around the world via the internet.

When discussing issues, the clergy men and women look for solutions in the word of God; rather than finding solutions based on what is popular. Our ideology, or the way they feel doesn’t matter, but there is always a certainty we can find a solution based on God's Holy word. With that being said, the round table discussion at this present time is about today's church, because there are individuals who find the church unnecessary or irrelevant in today’s society. In addition, there are things of the past that may have caused this belief to come upon individuals, but this broadcast is to shed light on and about the Church of the living God.

When one hears the word “church,” most individuals would automatically think of a building. The word “church” was not mentioned in the Old Testament. However, church expressively is mentioned in the New Testament; the Greek word for church is *ecclesia*, which means a called-out assembly or congregation. Therefore, the calling is from God to the church, by God and for God. This calling did not just start in the New Testament but has been a calling out in the Old Testament as well.

The word of God tells us in Ephesians 1:22 and 23 that God put everything under Christ’s power and made him head over everything for the church, (the church is Christ’s body) and it is filled with Him. Therefore, Christ makes everything complete in every way.

The word of God also tells us in Ephesians 5: 25-27, that Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be wholly and without blemish. Christ gave himself for his church, because he is coming back for us, the church. He is not coming back to collect brick, wood, nor your million-dollar ministry, your storefront, nor your house; he is coming back looking for his church, his called-out ones.

NGT Reporter, Tawan Wilson

“Spotlights”



Couples Spotlight

Since being here, we've seen us having grown more in our spiritual walk with Christ and our hunger and thirst for the Word. The fellowship between us and our brothers and sisters in Christ gives us that extra push to continue doing the right thing. We have been practicing what Joshua 1:8 says, which is to meditate on the word day and night. Another thing we particularly enjoy is the different classes held every so often, whether it's on marriage, finance, health, or study night. They are approached from a biblical standpoint that has and will continue to bless us and our family.

Bro Dennis & Sis Tnnia Williams



Singles Spotlight

Through the battles and struggles from the pandemic and my divorce, my mother, my grandkids, and losing a brother, through the word of God I'm still here. My life will never be the same. God helped me through adversity 2 Corinthians 10:5. I was introduced, by Lashone, to New Grace Temple; God knew what I needed, and it was to get closer to him. I accomplished that with Bishop and New Grace Temple family; Romans 8:18. God could have chosen anyone, but he chose me for this task, that God's glory be revealed. During the five plus years I fell along the way...God forgave me, so if you fall down get back up. Never be defeated. Genesis 18:1-3, I found favor.

Sis Castine Jones



Youth Spotlight

My experience at New Grace Temple has been wonderful. I love how everyone is so excited for Jesus. As a child growing up in New Grace I was taught to give God a praise. But when Bishop said come on everybody and give God some praise, I didn't because I was afraid that someone was looking or laughing at me. Now that I have gotten older, I realize that I should not care about what people say about me; it doesn't matter as long as I glorify God. I've been growing closer to Jesus and have gotten my life right with God. It is still in a process though. I love New Grace Ministry and I pray more blessings for our Ministry

God bless you. Grace White

The Bishop's Corner



Unto God be all the glory;

Jesus said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross; (Matt 16:24)" This is the season of "Mission." Jesus finished his Father's work (John 19:30) Paul finished the work Christ gave him (2 Tim 4:7); The ball is now in our court. We must understand the will of God; work the works of Jesus Christ and finish it!!

*God Bless You All!
Bishop*

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