

MESSENGER



Greetings from the General Overseer of the Emmanuel Holiness Church,

Happy New Year! We are trusting that this year will be the best yet for us in many ways, most of all in serving The Lord. In our vision to Move Forward, I think about Philip. He was translated to witness to the eunuch. At a moment's notice, God sent him to rescue a perishing soul. The hour we live in is one where souls are at a premium and we must be like Phillip, ready to Move Forward. We need to keep the vision, purpose, and passion of the goals that The Lord has set before us! He has equipped us to do a great work and we can succeed united together in Him.

In His Service,
David Clewis

General Overseer
Emmanuel Holiness Church

MOVING >>>
FORWARD
With God

14 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.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

- II Chronicles 7:14-15

Hello in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, I hope all of our Emmanuel Holiness Friends are doing well. God is truly good to us all. I'm thankful that God will never leave us or forsake us. I'm excited about this new year that God has blessed us with. At Alexandria, we have proposed making 2023 a year of prayer. I believe we should do so throughout our organization. The things that God would do for us this year would be amazing if we as a church would really get it in our hearts that we can call on the Lord, the Great Creator of our universe, and that He would respond to the cries of man. I believe we can have a historic revival. God bless you all. Come to visit us in Alabama.

Tim Phillips
Alabama State Overseer

Jacksonville Emmanuel Holiness

Jacksonville, AL

Jacksonville Emmanuel has had fun in December and January. In December, we had our Christmas plays. The kids did a nativity, and the adults did a very funny play called the Living Nativity. We had our first Youth Fellowship meeting of 2023 on January 13. We had Bro. Ricky Bledsoe preach, and there were almost 60 people in attendance. We took up an offering for this year's youth camp, and raised \$380. We are very excited about how it is coming along!



My name is Travis Stephens. I am the Assistant Youth Director for Alabama, and I recently accepted the call to preach. My family and I attend Jacksonville Emmanuel Holiness Church. I came to you today to try to encourage you in the Lord. It seems like in our everyday life we can get so burdened down with problems and cares of this world. We get drained physically and spiritually, but I want

to tell somebody today don't get weary. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Don't let this world bog you down and make you become weary of what you have waiting for you. Don't let the cares of this life take your eyes off the prize that awaits you in Glory. If we stay faithful to God and have the blood applied to our lives we have a Heavenly Home waiting for us.



Eastside Emmanuel Holiness Church

Opelika, AL

Greetings from Eastside E.H.C.,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season as we did, the only problem was it came and went so quickly. We wait all year for Thanksgiving and Christmas and it seems so far away, then it comes and goes so fast. Eastside had their Christmas dinner, shared gifts, and had a wonderful time of fellowship. We are certainly a blessed people, and we are humble and grateful to have a good church and a pastor who is preaching the truth with a burden for souls. Bro. Jackie Prickett is constantly mentioning to pray for the ones who are not in each service for whatever reason. He is always watching the parking lot each service looking for people to come. When we start church with prayer there are always several people whose names are called because he doesn't know why they are not there. This is the burden for souls that a true God called Pastor carries for each person when they are missed. We as the church must keep in mind that when you are not in church it worries the pastor when he does not know why. It is almost like a child that is supposed to come home at supper time and when they don't come, and you don't know where they are, how it worries a mother or a dad until they see them. This world we live in is a dangerous place, and the Apostle Paul said that in the last days, perilous times shall come; church we are there. A pastor has more than a sermon on his mind; he has souls on his heart. We need to show them great respect and check in with them when we can't make it to church. I have heard Bro. Jackie say, I don't know why they are not here so let's lift them up in prayer. Pastoring is a challenge and has many responsibilities, and I, for one, don't want to burden my pastor with more worries. Let's all make a great effort to be a help to our pastors in 2023. Eastside is like every other church in seeing some come and seeing some go, but I feel like the people who come to Eastside hear the Gospel. We can feel the Spirit of God, and can trust the men and women of God to show us love and respect. If we want help we can get it in the altars. This is not the case in many churches today where it is really just religious entertainment and a show, but when you have conviction and the drawing of the Holy Ghost that may not be what the flesh wants, but it is what the soul needs. Our prayer is that God continues to bless Eastside church and all the Emmanuel Holiness churches in 2023 with souls and growth.





Kind greetings from Alexandria. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first month of the new year. We are so grateful of how the Lord is blessing. We are growing both numerically and spiritually. Our pastor, Bro. Tim Phillips, continues to challenge us to spend more time in prayer. As a result, we are seeing God work in the lives of our people in mighty ways. He has answered many prayers and several have testified to being healed.

December and January were busy months. For our Backyard Bible Club activity in the month of December,



we loaded up on the bus and took a trip to Noccoula Falls to see the Christmas Lights. It was beautiful and a great time of fellowship!

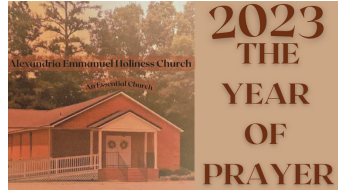
Bro. Tim was invited to preach at Church Street Worship Center in Cleveland, Tennessee so we filled the bus once again and took to the road for a great time of worship and fellowship.



Through our Ladies Auxiliary we were able to supply 24 twin sheet sets, pillows, Bibles, and Christmas gift bags to the women's facility of Sober Life Recovery in Anniston, Alabama. In addition, the men's facility was given 50 individual bags of toiletry items to be distributed to the men. The most exciting thing of all is that we were able to pick some of the women up for one of our Sunday morning services. It was a wonderful day as the Spirit of God moved, and they filled the altar. We praise the Lord for this great open door of opportunity to minister to their needs. Please pray for us that we will be able to lead them to the Lord. To win souls to the Lord is our desire.



We ended 2022 with a New Year's Eve Watch Night Service. It was a wonderful time to reflect on God's blessings and all that God has done for our church family. Bro. Michael Sanderson was with us and preached a thought provoking message entitled, "What Doth God Require?" -- "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what the doth Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8



We kicked off the New Year by presenting everyone with a calendar. We have designated this year as the year of prayer. Each month features a scripture on prayer. Everyone's birthday alongside their picture is listed on their birth month. The thought is for the church to join together and pray a special prayer for that person on their special day.

Also in the month of January, we were blessed to have Brother Ricky Bledsoe and Brother Larry Peters with us for two nights each. Both ministers preached anointed challenging messages. It was a time of refreshing in the presence of the Lord.



People in the altar every service. Thank God for the moving of the Holy Ghost. We are looking forward with great anticipation and expectation as we enter this new year knowing that God is faithful that promised!

We would like to invite you to visit our website at www.alexandriaehc.com. We are grateful and humbled for all that God is doing in us and through us. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless us and use us to be a blessing and a help to others. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



Not many services go by at AEHC that do not start like this:
 "Does anyone know what day it is?"
 "This is the day which the LORD hath made."
 "And what are we going to do with it?"
 "We will rejoice and be glad in it."
 "It's our choice. We can choose to rejoice and be glad it."
 Thank you Bro Tim Frazier. Never stop reminding us.

Abe Branch

Bladenboro, North Carolina

"Tis the Season

On December 16, Abe Branch Youth went caroling to the elder members of our church. The group rode to each house in a hay filled cattle trailer (which is funner and colder than it sounds) and sang "Joy to the World," "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Abe Branch was even able to minister to some who are no longer able to get out of their house, but still love to hear the songs of Christmas and the Word of God. Never underestimate the joy and happiness you bring to others just by being present.



I Speak Jesus

December 18, Sunday evening, the Abe Branch Youth put on a Christmas program that was different than any other they had previously done. Instead of learning lines and stage directions in a play, or singing carols in a cantata, the youth decided to put together a testimony service about what the Name of Jesus meant to them. Our little children memorized the names of Jesus given in the Bible using the alphabet. Through the use of cardboard testimonies, children, teenagers, and young adults told their stories; stories of how Jesus saved them from death, from disease, or from depression. Times when Jesus came to a young person who felt unwanted, and wrapped His arms around them and let them know He would never stop wanting them. As the group sang "I Speak Jesus," a sweet spirit filled the house as the Holy Ghost began to move in a comforting manner. May we never forget the power of the Name of Jesus; not just the power to shake the enemy to his core, but the power to gently soothe and care for His people.



Whenever you feel the Holy Ghost for the first time, it is one of the best feelings in the world. I'm Ryan Ramirez, I'm 16 years old, and I go to Bro. Vance Touchton's Church in Anderson, South Carolina. I first experienced the Holy Ghost when I was

down in South Florida at a Youth Camp during the summer of 2021. Before I headed down to South Florida, I made a commitment to myself that I won't leave this camp without the Holy Ghost. Some people in the church don't make that commitment. That's why we don't see God move in these days because people don't make that commitment in their life to do things like that. I headed down there and when I got down there, they had rules where we can't have a phone; they would either say let your parents take them or let them have them, but either way we could not have our phones during the duration of the time that we had camp. Something that helped me is that all through the week they put us through classes. They made us read the Word and study it. It's not just because they made us do those things but made us focus on what needed to be done; of how our life should be if we wanted God to use us. So every day that they had a service I would seek the face of God and for the Holy Ghost, that is one thing that my pastor has taught me and that is how to seek the face of God, but the Thursday night of the Youth Camp was the night. I remember the message that Bro. Don Rich preached; it was on "Becoming Different". I remember that message hitting me hard, and I felt the need to become different and change the way I do things. So when the altar was called I went up there to pray and nothing but stuttering lips. I got off my knees and walked to Sis. Christy because she was the one who was there with me. I asked her, "Is it cold in here because why are my lips doing that?" She replied, "It ain't cold in here God wants to help you. Go back down there and raise those hands!" So I followed her orders, went down there, and raised both hands. After a few minutes of crying and pouring my heart out, something hit me like a ton of bricks, put me flat on my back, and God filled me with the Holy Ghost. From then my life has been changed, and God has used me in a mighty way. I thank God for that!





Ladies Auxiliary

Yesterday is gone but not its memories, and I am thankful for every one of them. I am still reflecting on the blessings of our General Assembly of 2022.

As great as that event and many others that we can recall to mind, they are now in yesterday. We must go forward with great expectations into a brand new year. Our theme will be:

On Our Knees in 2023



Ladies join me as we purpose in our hearts to become women of prayer.

The kind of difference we will make in our church, our families, and our community depends on our growing, thriving, fervent prayer life. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

- **Pray Daily** – Our needs are daily. Our spiritual battles are daily. To be effective women of prayer we must cultivate a daily prayer life.
- **Pray Fervently** – Our praying should be full of passion and intensity. Let's pray until we know we have touched God.
- **Pray Without Ceasing** – Ladies let's adopt an attitude of prayer in everything we do.
- **Pray With Expectation** – Pray boldly looking for God to answer.
- **Pray and ACT when God says to/sends you** – Be sensitive to the voice and promptings of God and be ready to obey Him.

As I write this I am reminded of Hannah. She wanted a child so much that she prayed daily, fervently, without ceasing, with expectation, and then she acted in obedience to her vow that she made concerning her Samuel. She gave him back to God. I love thinking about this. Hannah's prayers touched God and he not only rewarded her with the son that she prayed for, but because she acted in obedience, God gave her other children. Ladies let us have a heart and a prayer life like Hannah. While her longing was for a natural birth our longing is for spiritual births. Many of our family and friends need to be saved. Time is swiftly passing and the need to spend more time on our knees calling out to God in their behalf has never been greater.

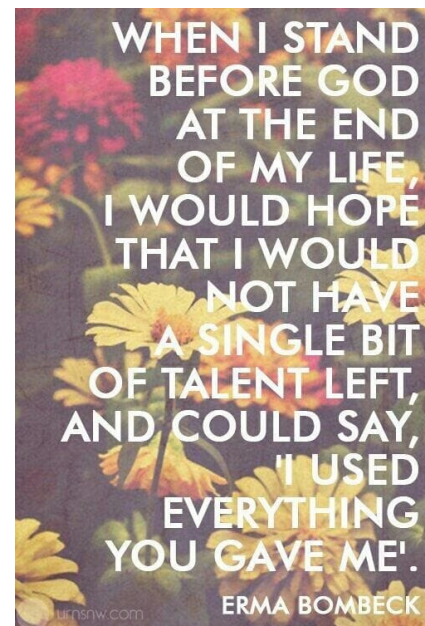
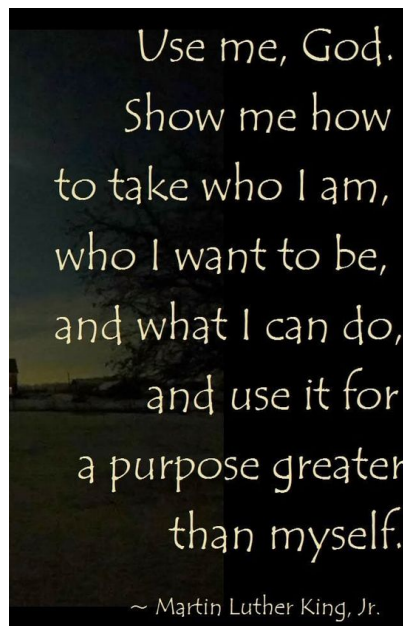
Our **UP**reach will definitely effect our **OUT**reach.

As we enter a new year, we go forward with the assurance that God is With Us (Emmanuel). I want to encourage each of you to let this be the year that we purpose in our heart to spend more time in prayer and in God's Word. There could be no greater goal for the Ladies Auxiliary than to spend more time "ON OUR KNEES IN 2023." It is there that we find strength, inspiration, and anointing to make a difference in our home, our churches, and our communities.

We enter the new year with the promise of His presence.

May God Bless You All
As You Labor For Him In
Your Corner of the Field!

Carrie Hilton
Ladies Auxiliary, President



Thank God He sees our potential!
Our calling is never limited to our current situation or perception of our ability. Simon was named Peter (petra-rock) long before he was stable and mature.

Our worth is measured through God.
Our ability to do anything through Him.
But I'm not ready! But I'm not worthy!
Instead, how about I am CALLED BY GOD to do a work for Him! He doesn't set us up for failure.

Lord let us be willing to say I will come just as I am.
...Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;

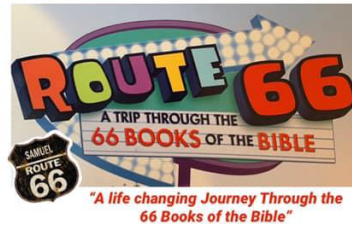


Is David and Goliath just another story that we use to entertain children in Sunday School? Oh no! It is packed with powerful lessons for life! Today we unpacked a few things I'd like to share:

First, let's look at the setting of our story: The Philistines and the Israelites are at a stand-off, a showdown if you will. Both armies are on opposite sides of the Valley of Elah. For 40 days the great giant of a man Goliath comes forth taunting and challenging the Children of Israel to fight. Paralyzed with FEAR no one makes a move. But one day things change! David comes to bring his brothers food as his father had asked him to. While he is there Goliath comes with his challenge again calling for one to come and fight, but terribly afraid not one of the men volunteered! But the Spirit rose up in little David, and he ran out to meet and defeat Goliath in the name of the Lord!

So, what are the life lessons that we can take away? I believe if we look at David's 5 stones it will teach us what we need to overcome our giants:

1. **FAITH** - David did not focus on the giant. His focus was on his past victories and they were *faith builders*! He knew if the Lord could deliver him from the lion and the bear that he had faced while taking care of the sheep that He was well able to give him victory over Goliath!
2. **OBEDIENCE** - Without this one his faith would have been dead, but David demonstrated a life of obedience to God, his earthly father, and even to evil King Saul.
3. **SERVICE** - Without service the stones of faith and obedience have no power or strength. Service is the action associated with faith and the implementation of obedience. Look at David's reply when he was scolded by his brothers for being on the battlefield:
And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?
And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.
4. **PRAYER** - David approached Goliath with a prayerful attitude: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."
5. **HOLY GHOST POWER** - David not only had faith, was obedient, performed service, and prayed but he had the Spirit of the Lord with him which equipped him to defeat the enemy.



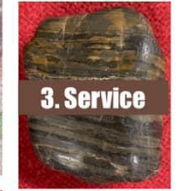
SUNDAY SCHOOL - Making a Difference!



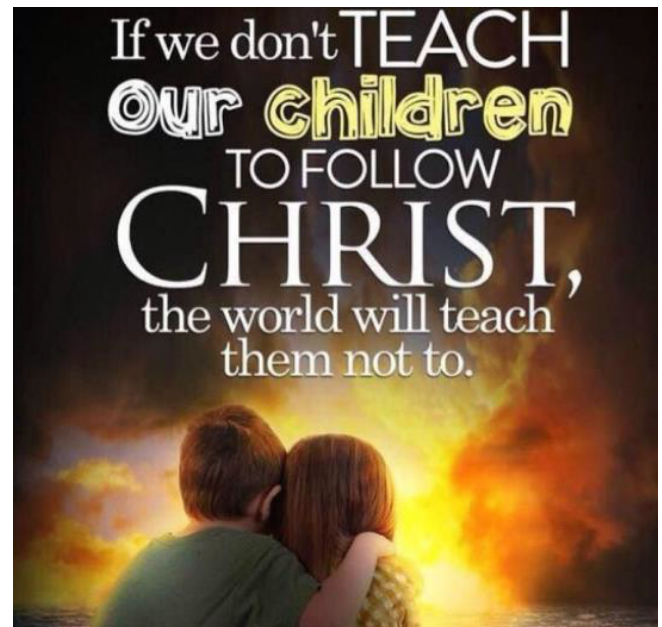
David's 5 Smooth Stones



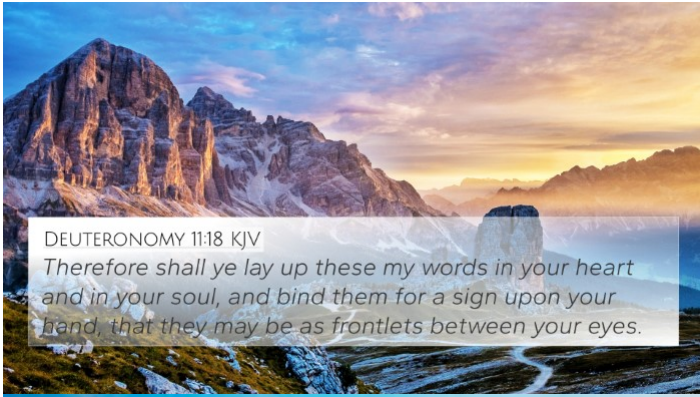
PIC-COLLAGE



David never really knew Goliath's strength. He was too focused on God's!



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DEUTERONOMY 11:18 KJV

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.



Deuteronomy 11:19 KJV

And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.



Teaching children is a huge responsibility. We must take it seriously and do it well. Prepare well, speak truth, and remember they are God's children first. One shot. You have one shot to raise your children in church. That's all you get. It's precious, scarce, and fleeting. When it's gone, it's gone forever. You can't go back. There's no reset button.

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay out. The world will tell them not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being "good" is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus.

That's our job.

Faith is often inherited. So is a lack of it. Adults who went to Sunday School as a child are more likely to take their children.

Choose which cycle you want for your descendants.

Take your children to Sunday School.

Be Still & Know

My son, Asher, doesn't sleep very well. He is a very active one year old, and truly hasn't slept through the night a day in his life. In fact, just getting him to sleep is a chore. He tosses and turns, pulls my hair, and rotates from pacifier to bottle endlessly. It's exhausting, but I can remember one night in particular, as I held him for over an hour, the Lord spoke to my heart through my little restless baby. It was well past his bedtime, and I knew he was tired. I watched as his little eyelashes fluttered against his cheeks, and felt his tiny body twitch as he'd began falling asleep, but as soon as he knew he was drifting off, he'd catapult himself up. I remember how frustrated I was when I laid him back down and proclaimed, "If you would just be still, you'd feel a lot better!" In that moment, I felt the Lord speak to my heart and say, "If YOU would just be still, YOU would feel a lot better too!" I immediately began to dwell on those words and to say that they were heavy would be an understatement. I asked myself how many times have I fought the very thing that would set me free, give me peace and rest? How many times have I grown weary from trying to fix things that I had no business fixing? Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." There are two commands there. First, be still. I don't know about you, but it's especially hard for me to just "be still" when my world is spinning out of control. When my bills are due, my family is struggling, or my children are hurting. I want to get my hands all up in that, but I have found that it is most imperative during those times that I take my hands off, and just simply trust that He does all things well. We say He's a Waymaker, but we wouldn't know, because we are too busy making our own way. We want immediate results and when God isn't working fast enough for us, we tend to take matters into our own hands, usually making bigger messes in the process. Be still. Secondly, He says to know that He is God! He didn't say to be still and worry. Be still and wonder how things will be resolved. He said KNOW that He is God. He created the earth by The Word of His mouth. He tells the heart in your chest to beat, and His track record is flawless. When we truly fall in love with Jesus we can know Him. We can trust Him with our lives and all that entails. My mind goes to the children of Israel and how they must've been terrified as Moses instructed them to commute onto dry ground as two massive walls of water formed around them, but Exodus 14:13 says, "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, STAND STILL, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day..." Some battles aren't made for us to fight, but we can lean on His Word, and rely on His promises, because we've all experienced His faithfulness. Why on earth would we question His ability or even His timing when all He's ever done is make a way for our escape? I don't always know how to be still through heartache and pain, but it's in my hour of desperation that I've gotten to know Him more intimately. There are days when I feel restless and my carnal mind can't comprehend the mountaintop view from the emptiness of the valley, but what I do know is that He is God. He has everything under control. His heart aches every time yours does, and He promised to fight your battle for you. We don't have to carry the weight of our circumstances. We can rest in His promise, and trust that because of our obedience He is working behind the scenes on our behalf.

Molli Nance

Abe Branch Emmanuel Holiness Church

Letter from the Editor

Arise: one word. It's what Joshua had to do after Moses died. It's what Elijah was told to do before hearing the still small voice. Arise has two meanings depending on the speaker: 1) If man says arise then it means get up 2.) If God says it, then it's a command to get yourself to a higher level. Coming up higher is positioning ourselves i.e. getting ourselves in the right position where the blessings of the Lord are and where God can use us. This desire comes from spending time in God's Word. Prayer and worship help put us in this position.

Arise takes action but also takes faith - faith that the actions will lead to results. Rise from our circumstances to a new life. Move out of the natural realm into the spiritual. If we never arise we will never experience His glory. Worry and care will ensnare and position us in the wrong place. It affects everyone and weighs them down. The enemy cannot devour us unless we allow it. Instead of worry by prayer, and thanksgiving let our requests be known to God. This is being in the proper position with God - being in the peace of God, having his joy, not being robbed by cares and worry.

Arise: go higher! People often feel unqualified. They dwell on past mistakes, lack of education or funding - the excuses are endless. Let's get our priorities straight - put first things first regardless of our feelings. He must increase but I must decrease. Pride is trying to do it on our own. God wouldn't command us if we didn't have the ability. We are given grace. We have God's power! He gives us the ability to do what we can't do on our own. Arise is the command of God! Jesus is in you - He will help you arise.

Who art thou, O great mountain before Zerubbabel? What are these mountains that we can't seem to get over? For each the mountain is different, but the command remains the same. Isaiah 41 says, Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

God equips us with everything we need to rise up. What once looked like a mountain is just a hill from heaven's point of view. Go higher! The higher you get over something the smaller that thing becomes. Whatever obstacles stood in your way in the past it is time to go over them. Let 2023 be the year your tests turn into testimonies!

We would love to publish your church news and events! ***Please send us photos and articles via rebecca@alexandriaehc.com.*** Here are some guidelines to make sure we can use your submission: Please submit photos in jpg or png format; don't embed photos (i.e. copy into a Word document). Please submit photo captions or articles in a Word doc, Google doc, or in the body of the email. Submissions are published as they are received and as we have room. The Messenger will be published bimonthly.

Tentatively, publication will be the first of the month with deadlines for submission being one week prior. We reserve the right to edit or omit submissions. You should receive confirmation that we received your submission.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

Are you enjoying the Messenger?

Our next deadline:

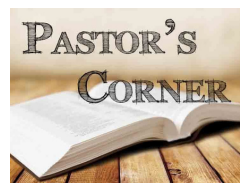
March 24, 2023.

February 15-17
Winter Campmeeting
Bethesda Church
Plant City, Florida

February 25
Alabama Conference
10 AM
Campgrounds
LaFayette, AL

Word search: Can you find the names of sixteen (16) of the 66 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.



Bro. Ricky Bledsoe
Pastor, Martin Grove
Emmanuel Holiness Church

**"Watch your thoughts, they become your words;
watch your words, they become your actions;
watch your actions, they become your habits;
watch your habits, they become your character;
watch your character, it becomes your destiny."**