

Vol. 2 Issue 1 January 2019

Proving what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God!

Jear o

"Every day we are blessed to awaken is an opportunity for a new beginning"

#### "Every day we are blessed to awaken is an opportunity for a new beginning"

Understand that FAITH requires forging ahead in the hope. The hope is having our purpose evolve



Magazine Vol. 1

Issue 1

January 2019

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If you are interest in submitting an article to the magazine, please submit your article and contact information to a local editor in your area for consideration.

Thank you for your interest!



#### Encouraging Words for This New Year

By Eunice A. Christian

Points of reference:

- Expectancy in Jesus the Christ
- Lessons learned to build upon
- Seeking God for clarity of divine purpose
- Staying encouraged

You might have noticed that I italicized the word *This* in the title, *Encouraging Words for This New Year*. I did so because I wanted to emphasize that words of encouragement are not static for every new beginning. When we honor God the Father, we also receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior. We must, therefore, receive our Redeemer as our all in all—*The Living Word*. So, in believing in Him, we have the expectation that new revelations can arise and be received with each new day as inspired by God. That is what makes reading the entire Holy Bible, and not just sections, so important. I found starting from the Book of Genesis through the Book of Revelations extremely enlightening. I first accomplished this many years after being saved. I read and studied the scriptures for years, but there is a far greater level of enlightenment that can be expected when you read the Holy Bible from beginning to end straight through; pace yourself when you do. *You should be enlightened more than ever of God's love for the world and His unfailing love for His chosen*.

You should be able to see how God reconciles us back to Him by His Son Jesus, our Redeemer, after the 1st Adam of sin separated us. It is amazing to see the history of how God remained faithful to His chosen, in spite of how they sought other gods, and how we, today can be called His chosen. It is not a novel, and it should not be read like one, but reading it through its entirety from the first book to the last gives a greater perspective as to how God has blessed us beyond what **our** words can describe. Yes, it is important to hear a teacher expound upon His Holy Word, but to read it through and through brings a level of enlightenment that enhances one's spiritual walk in a way that reading chapters or scriptures in segments may not as easily provide. What I believe and will also share is this: God's Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, so what is for you to know, it is for you to know.

What I am sharing is that you should be willing to learn the Word for yourself—all of it—the Old Testament and the New Testament—the entire book is applicable to our walk in Christ Jesus. It gives us not only strength for the challenges we face on a daily basis, we gain a greater perspective as to how we can relate to the diverse individuals contained in the Holy Bible; thereby, enabling us to receive what we should learn and receive that much more. The Holy Bible is God's inspired Word for our life application—not because I indicated so, but because God declares it so.

John 1:1 (KJV).<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 4:10 (KJV).** <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV).** <sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

With each new experience, we anticipate new growth. Words of encouragement may change from situation to situation; in this case, for my first article for Year 2019, from the previous year to the next. *Why the emphasis?* A brand new year usually makes its mark, sort of, like a benchmark for our lives. As we approach and then reach a new year, we tend to reflect upon events and things past, present, and things to come. For many of us, it may be a significant time to determine whether we are meeting certain expectations for our betterment, and as servants for Christ, for the betterment of others. It is a time of reflection as to whether we are walking in our purpose. Unfortunately, it can also be a solemn time; a reflection of loss or grief, feeling we missed the mark in some way, which can make this period especially difficult. However, because we believe in The One who is able to keep us from falling, we can gain and maintain hope for an expected end. We have that blessed assurance that if we remain unwavering

and diligent in our walk in serving God our Father, He is faithful and just to forgive us; blessing us with His Redemptive power, to see us through. For scriptures of support and encouragement, read Romans 8, which is here, in part:

**Romans 8:1-6 (KJV).** <sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Now that we are in the Year 2019, we may still ask ourselves (in part), *What has been learned from experiences of the year before that will help with a more positive outcome for this year, Year 2019?* You may not have thought about it exactly like this, but you may have wondered about self-improvement at least once, *right?* You have at least shaken off the spirit of doubt or discouragement to strive towards the expectation of a better year, *correct?* If not, and you realized you should, read on. I hope you will feel a greater sense of urgency to get on and stay on the course; to remain encourage for this New Year—and of course for years to come—by relying upon the Living Word of God.

**1 Peter 3:13-17 (KJV).** <sup>13</sup> And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

If our financial situation has not changed much, we are still currently not at the same place we were a year before. We have been blessed to see a brand new year. Even if all goals and objectives have not been achieved as desired, we are still not the same as we were a year earlier. Every time we wake up in the morning to a brand new sunrise, we have been blessed with and by the Son of God who loves us; His presence in our life gives us new mercies and grace; even if our finite eyes tend to cause doubt that not much has changed for the good. What would be sad or disheartening is if we received in our hearts that we have not become stronger and wiser, despite whether we think things did not go as expected or planned. With every brand new sun; with every rest or sleep, we have the ability to become rejuvenated in the Holy Spirit through the Word; if only we believe and remain faithful. If we stay encouraged, we can continue to rise to higher levels in our growth of mind, body, and soul. *With faith, it is achievable to receive God's strength for today...and tomorrow.* 

Lamentations 3:23 (KJV).<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

When I was a young child, I loved to plant kidney beans in the soil because it would start sprouting *so fast*! Within a day or two, on the window sill of my home where the sunlight could shine upon it, the outer layer of my seeds would separate, making way for a very thin whitish substance to stick out. The roots would begin to emerge; becoming longer and thicker; darkening with light-greenish color, penetrating the soil. *How did I know this? I knew this because I loved exploring, and seeking, and researching*! I took my sprouted kidney bean seeds out and examined them. I loved seeing its progress. *It was an interesting, and in my mind, fast transformation*! There was one thing I was mindful of, though. I knew that I could not continue to touch or remove the sprouts if I wanted to ensure its protection and to enhance its continued healthy growth. This meant that I would not (or should not) handle the sprouts much longer while the roots began to grow, extend, and attach itself to the soil. It also meant that I would not be able to see all of the levels of change (with finite eyes, that would be difficult anyway—healthy planted *kidney beans grow at such a fast rate*). Yet, I knew that change was happening because I believed. *I believed something was happening because I had confidence in the process*! I felt confident that my kidney seed sprouts were still alive and well while in my flower pot of fertile soil. *We are like seeds, planted in fertile soil, when that soil represents the Word of God; when the flower pot containing fertile soil is a life and an environment based upon the Word of God. We are like seeds planted in rich soil when we regularly engaged in Christian fellowship.* 

**Matthew 13:18-23 (KJV).** <sup>18</sup> Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. <sup>20</sup> But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; <sup>21</sup> Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. <sup>22</sup> He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

I know for myself, that when things do not go as expected, my lesson learned, in part, of course, is that *whatever God has for me, it is for me.* To share, I also recall how a few of my kidney bean seeds did not sprout; becoming soft and mushy in the soil. I questioned why. *Did I add too much water? Were the seeds too deep in the flower pot? Were the seeds good? Is the soil contaminated in certain parts of the flower pot?* I could not figure it out then, and still today, do not know why all the seeds did not grow; however, *I still trusted the process*.

As Jesus depicted in His parable of the sower (Matthew 13:18-23), as well as by my own personal experiences, I can relate and know that my season is my season; that the promises of God are still *Yes and Amen*. I have learned to continue to trust in The One who is able to keep me from falling. So, by receiving this perspective and level of faith, I cannot help but to trust God. No other help I know that keeps the joy in my soul. My hope is that you will, if you have not as yet, while the blood is still running warm in your veins, receive God's purpose and timing for your life, too.

Therefore, I continue with the Lord as my Guide under the power and unction of the Holy Spirit. I do what I can to persevere with wisdom and knowledge. I focus upon the fact that I still have my reasonable portion of health, and the ability to continue to make good and great things happen, *irrespective as to how others perceive my growth*. As it is for your case too, our *purpose has not been defined by man, nor even ourselves, but by our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus.* 

In further reflection, I have also come to accept the kindness of others not as a weakness of my situation, but as blessings bestowed upon me. Knowing that others care for me is such a strong resource of encouragement. *Plus, it keeps my friends and well-wishers from yelling at me that I am hindering their blessings*! I had to learn to receive. It is in spite of me, not necessarily because of me; solely because God cares, and that His grace for me is sufficient. So, I remain strong, determined not to falter in my faith. I continue to trust in Him because although at times, through finite eyes, I do not always see my situation changing at a pace I would prefer, I continue to rely upon Him. I continue to trust my Lord Jesus under the power of the Holy Spirit to see me through.

One would believe it should be the norm that there is always more to do for the Kingdom of God; to not stay static. Sometimes knowing one's direction is not always as clear as we would like or hope. With all that is going on in the world today, staying encouraged as to one's purpose and path is SO IMPORTANT. We should know that overall, our situation can change for the better in a twinkling of an eye. This blessed assurance is such a constant, ongoing blessing and relief!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (KJV). <sup>1</sup>To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven....

**Luke 17:6 (KJV)**. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

**Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)**. <sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Before sharing words of encouragement, I first receive them for myself to remain encouraged, too. I am not static; neither are you. Our mind is ever learning and evolving with new information and processes. We still have the ability to learn and grow. We are so truly blessed to have so much at our grasp. If you do not claim this for yourself, encourage yourself, or seek others who can assist you on your road of faith. Know that because of God's greatest gift given to mankind, the birth, death, and resurrection of His only begotten Son, Jesus, we are directed and guided by the Comforter, the Holy Spirit—*this cannot be emphasized enough! Know and receive that God loves you, and He provides and cares for you! His grace and mercies are everlasting to everlasting.* 

**Numbers 23:19 (KJV).** <sup>19</sup> God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

**James 1:17 (KJV).** <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

We know to believe in seasons. Therefore, perhaps, just like that seedling, unbeknownst to us all, we are blessed with a wealth of spiritual and natural growth that only our Lord and God can see. So if we seem to be still, or not progressing in matters that are dear to us, *perhaps that is how God would want us*—*perhaps, at least for now.* We may be meant to stay planted in certain situations until we learn what it is we need to learn or grasp. *Be confident in knowing that, like seedlings in the soil, although we do not easily detect or see them, we have roots that have amazing growth that strengthens our foundations! Amen someone!* 

While continuing to absorb the Living Word (nutrients of the spirit), and while avoiding the harshness of negative environments (temptations, confusion), we should remain encouraged that one day we will be able to take all or most of what we have learned and experienced, and apply it to future encounters with others as our testimony; as God's will for us allows.

If you need encouraging, ask Jesus to help you; let the Holy Spirit rest, rule, and abide freely upon you to guide and direct. Perhaps your purpose and source of encouragement is also based upon learning something that gives you peace and joy. It may come in the form of that new skill that you have continuously picked up, but placed back down; never having quite mastered yet (for example, designing, writing, a foreign language, cooking, etc.). *So, while remaining grounded in Him, continue to learn and enjoy life. One never knows how something that gives joy can also elevate one to a higher level in ministry!* 

Have you thought much about whether your growth is being noticed? If so, by whom? Who should it matter to the most? Your family, friends, work associates? Are you subjected to peer pressure? Is this the reason for lack of enthusiasm or encouragement in your life? Or perhaps, your growth is being hindered by a struggling issue of sin? *Who is supposed to see YOUR roots? Maybe it is not a state of sin that is holding you back; it could be that God is pruning you!* One thing for certain, we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). *If we are conscientious of our sin that keeps us from being faithful, that is a great beginning towards repentance. It means we have the wherewithal to make a positive change. With a spirit of sincere repentance comes a stronger and more sincere walk with God.* However, every push back in life does not mean it is a set up for failure! *Again, God could be pruning you for a greater walk in Him. Bring it to God.* Read Chapter John 15; here it is, in part:

John 15:1-5 (KJV). <sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Hebrews 12:6 (KJV). <sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

Now, not all of us lack encouragement in our lives. Say, we sprouted up and are stepping into the place of fulfilling our purpose. There will still be distractions and doubts that come that attempt to blind us from God's truths. Frankly, that is the adversary's job as long as we are in our body of flesh. We are always under attack—whether we see it or not—it is an ever present part of a Believer's walk! All I know is that my Lord and my God are real; that I will continue to trust. I am on His Vine, I know how important it is to be able to encourage myself. Just as important, I hope you know how important it is to encourage yourself, too!

John 7:38-39 (KJV). <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. <sup>39</sup> (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

\* \* \*

I share my personal perspective with the anticipation that it may help someone. I would ask of those who read this article to become and stay encouraged; albeit difficult at times. *Realize you are not alone—not ever truly alone*. If there is no one close to you to help you, seek out resources outside of your inner circle. Of course, I would first and foremost suggest that if you are not already involved in a bible-based ministry, to become involved in one so that you can become strengthened. *How can this* 

potentially help you? It can strengthen you because God our Father declared it so by the power and unction of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Living Word that dwells with us; it is He who gives us strength from day to day. Also, fasting and praying—as well as looking outward in the spirit of outreach to help others—is a great resource of encouragement and clarity, and serves as a means to not only have a closer walk with Jesus, but to also spread the Gospel.

**Matthew 6:5-13 (KJV)**. <sup>5</sup> And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup> But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup> But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup> Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him. <sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We know as Believers that there is only perfection in the Holy Trinity: God The Father, God The Son, and God the Holy Ghost. There are no perfect ministries (Jesus came for the sick; Mark 2:17). However, as Believers, we strive towards perfection in Christ Jesus, which can be achieved by following His example and by depending upon His Word. To share, I am so grateful for Sunday School. Sunday School enables me to not only listen to the various topics of discussion that are relevant for today, it is also a place to become engaged with like-minded fellow Believers. Topics of discussion are usually presented in the form of booklets that can be taken home. You may want to also keep in mind that bible studies are usually held once a week in the evenings for many ministries. This is not only the way God wants us to engage with one another (Hebrews 10:25), it can also serve as a path to determine where you may be led to grow spiritually. *Furthermore, don't fear the chance of being repotted! Sometimes, just like plants that outgrow its flower pot, our first place of worship may be a stepping stone to where we eventually are meant to remain.* 

**2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**. <sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**James 5:14-15 (KJV)**. <sup>14</sup> Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

So as 2019 New Year goes forth, receive in your heart that since you still have blood running warm in your veins, you still have the potential to transform and become a new you. It is in your power and grasp to transform into a new you. If you like where you are in Christ Jesus—awesome! Just continue on your path of spiritual growth! Continue serving The Most High God as He guides you on your purpose in serving Him and others.

In closing, whatever state you may be in, *know God loves you*. Stay prayerful and vigilant that there are resources in addition to places of Christian worship—a public library, meetup groups, community-based organizations—that can help you on your road to a fulfilling, prosperous, healthy, and joyous life.

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May you stay blessed and favored; covered by His Grace; for this 2019 New Year, and for many years to come...and don't forget...stay encouraged!

**Proverbs 17:22 (KJV).** <sup>22</sup> Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV). <sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Philippians 4:4 (KJV). <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.





## 6 a.m. **FORTIFICATION CONFERENCE** 2019



#### Receiving and Operating in the Power of GOD

Date:

Location

June 13 - 15, 2019

Hampton Inn & Suites 1101 Technology Park Drive Glen Allen, Virginia 23059

Registration fee as of Jan 1,2019: \$75

Hotel Room: \$129 per night (Thursday and Friday night ONLY) Please see registration for for room details.

#### **CASHAPP:** \$vlfministry PAYPAL: paypal.me/ellavlfm

#### Fortifiers that are called to serve

For more information:

Evang. Ella 646-418-2513 Min. Mark Dudley 404-671-2879

Email: ella.vlfm@gmail.com or visit wwww.vlfministry.com Sis Angela Lovelady Cheraw, SC

Min. Mark Dudley Stockbridge, GA

Evang. Ella J. Alexander Brooklyn, NY

#### **6 AM FORTIFICATION CONFERENCE 2019**

#### **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

Mr. Ms. Mrs.					
		First Name:			
Address:					
City: S	State:	. Zip code:			
Phone:		Fax:			
Email:					
Office: 🗌 Apostle 🔲 Prophet 🗌 Bishop 🗌 Pastor 📄 Elder . 🗌 Minister 🗌 Evang. 🗌 Deac/Deaconess					
Church Affiliation					

#### **ROOM PREFERENCE**

\$129 per night (Thurs & Fri only)	Single	Double Room	Double Room
		(Will share with someone I know)	(Willing to share with someone I don't know)
Please check appropriate box			

#### **REGISTRATION FEE**

	Amount	Deposit	Balance
Registration Fee			
Early Bird Registration Fee Starting Aug 6 – Dec. 31, 2018	\$ 25.00		Must be paid by Dec. 31, 2018
Registration Fee beginning Jan. 1, 2019	\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00 (by 3/1/19)	Must be paid by May 1, 2019
Late Registration Fee After May 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019	\$ 100.00	\$ 55.00	Must be paid by May 15, 2019

The registration fee includes workshop material, coffee & tea breaks and lunch.

\*MAY 15, 2019 IS THE CUT-OFF DATE.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be in writing or by email. Registration fees are non-refundable upon cancellation. Room booking cancellations are fully refunded if cancelled five (5) days prior to event. Individual room reservations must be cancelled up to 48 hours prior to Day of Arrival. If cancelled after the 48 hours a one night room stay fee is required plus taxes and fees. If cancelled the day of the full payment will be requested and refunds will not be provided.

#### ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR GUEST

To reserve a room, please call (804) 261 – 2266 and reference **6AM Fortification Conference** or ask to speak with Nancy Coggins if you have any issues booking the room.

#### DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT & PERSONALITY / IMAGE RIGHTS

By filling out the registration form, the participant gives consent that VLF Ministry can process the data provided within the framework of the conference and allow photographs to be made during the conference. This includes, unless registered participants object, all handling needed for the applicant's participation at the event and for the drafting of a list of participants which will be distributed at the conference, and placing photographs in the pictures gallery accessible only by participants and VLF Ministry, on the ministry webpage or any social media represented by the ministry. If you do not wish to be photographed please indicate below and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

Ι, \_

(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_, do not wish to be photographed during the event.

(Participant's Signature/ Date)

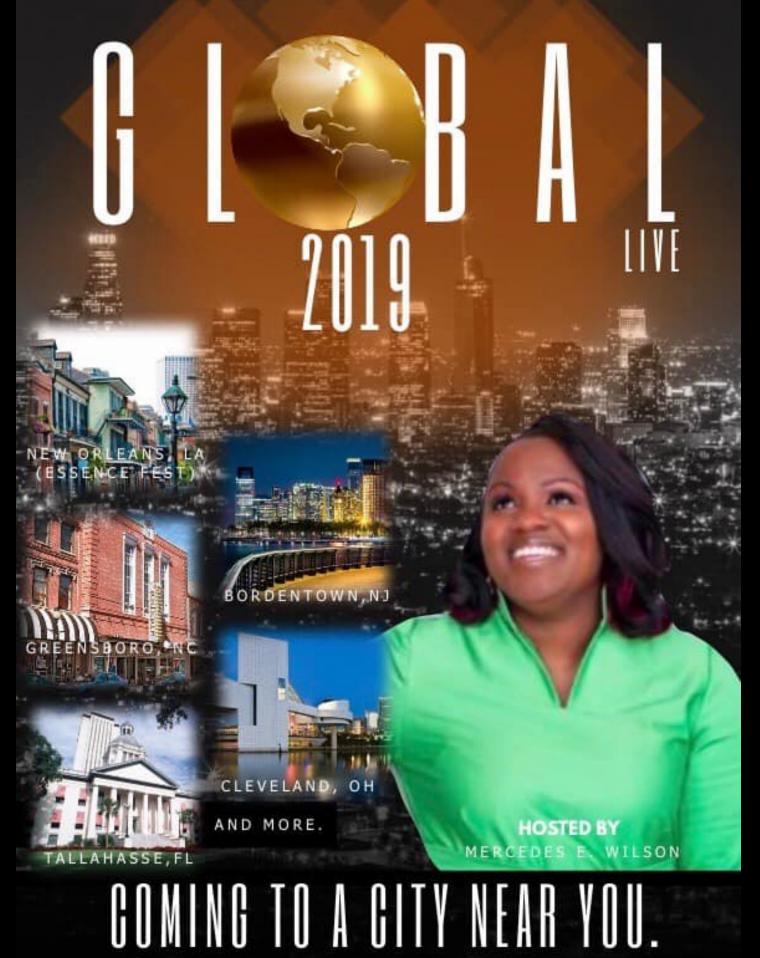
Please return registration forms by April 31, 2019 to the following below. After May 10,2019 no registration forms will be accepted.

. Note: You can send your form in as soon as you like so we could have count of who will be present.

Email: Ella - <u>ella.vlfm@gmail.com</u> Mark - <u>Markworship2003@gmail.com</u>

Mail to: VLF Ministry c/o Evang. Ella J. Alexander P.O. Box 330046 Brooklyn, NY 11233

#### UNIQUE SOUNDZ MUSIC GROUP, LLC. PRESENTS



#### **I Press**

#### **Evangelist Stacie Daniels**

The other day I was listening to the radio riding along in the car. There were callers calling into the radio station giving their own personal stories about how the current government shutdown in America has caused tremendous hardship on their families. Many of the callers expressed that they were not able to pay their bills, obtaining grocery from community pantries, and frantically searching for employment. Some have fear that they would soon be homeless because they were not able to pay their mortgage or rent.

Moreover, the government shutdown has had widespread harmful direct or indirect effects on this country we know as the United States of America including: decreased public transportation, deficient nutritional content in some school lunches, and many working without a paycheck. How can this be in such a thriving, wealthy country that has a circulation of \$1.72 trillion in US currency? In other news, we are constantly bombarded with reports of homicide, genocide, suicide, drug overdosing, racism, discrimination, greed, apathy and disease. In light of all of this, at times it may seem like an uphill battle to stay uplifted and encouraged through it all. Undoubtedly, some who will read this article have challenges and struggles that they are dealing with. I want you to know that whether your challenge is known or unknown to others, God knows all about it and He has a divine plan in it all.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." To press on toward it means to exert deliberate, maximum effort for the reaching or attaining of it. Here, the Apostle Paul was basically declaring I will deliberately exert maximum effort or give it all I got to attain eternal life in heaven with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In essence, no matter if I lose friends, if affliction is laid upon me, or what is happening around me, I must press. For we know that in this life we will have trials and tribulations. We will also witness evil on display which seem in contradiction to the character of Jesus Christ who is ever merciful and loving. However, we know that there are spirits that we cannot see with our natural eyes fighting for the souls of man. In the midst of it all, take courage my brothers and sisters and keep pressing. James admonished us to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (James 1:2-3). Allow me to encourage you to keep praying and looking to Jesus for the answers. He promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Your problem or concern is just right for an all powerful God. Now is not the time to give up or throw in the towel. Keep moving in faith knowing that miracles still happen everyday. Press on!

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#### Be On the Move – Evang. Ella J. Alexander

As we try to settle into 2019, there are many things we are planning and sorting out. We remember the goals or tasks of last year that we didn't complete. However, that doesn't mean that we have to stop or throw it away. Think of you goal as a race. You know where you are starting and you know the distance you have to go to complete it. There is no way you can give up in the middle of the race or call it quits. There is no throwing in the towel. You can't allow others who are passing you by to hinder or distract you. You must keep moving toward the things of God. You must keep pursuing your dream.

The one thing that needs to be taken into consideration when it comes to being on the move is that if every inventor stopped we wouldn't have light, gas, electric, buildings, cars, or even the technology we use today. Yes, they had issues and yes, they had obstacles but they never stopped working, they never gave up. They worked through or around what tried to stand in their way. If the construction workers gave up, we wouldn't have a road to travel on or a bridge to cross.

Being on the move is not subject to the surroundings but it is finding new ways to reach goals to bring dreams to life. The Apostle Paul says in the book of Galatians 5:7, **"You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth?"(NLT)** In 2019 we are not to allow people and things to hinder, block or persuade us from following the truth and that is running the race and getting the prize (Heb 12:1-2; Phil 3:14). It's an uphill journey for us and we must keep our eyes on the hills from whence cometh our help (Psalms 121:1-2). We can't even allow ourselves to be the one to keep us from going forward or from finishing this race.

Whatever you have in your heart to achieve in this year, have the mindset to work at it. The Word of God tells us that the people had a mind to work when it came to building the wall (Neh. 4:6). So please, don't be weary in well doing. Don't faint. Don't give in. Don't get distracted. Don't talk yourself out of finishing the project that God has placed within your heart. He gave it to you because He wants you to do it and not just do it but accomplish that task and conqueror every obstacle. Trust in the God-given ability and wisdom that is on the inside of you and will come along side of you to assist.

Be on the Move, and your past will always be your past.

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#### Encourage

Elder Diane Harvell

This year I encourage the people of God to love yourselves enough to complete the assignment God has given you.

Whether, you're a singer, a writer, a worship leader, a minister, or a member of a church, each of us has a God-given talent or talents that can be "fruitful" and can "multiply" God's love and existence here on the earth!

I realize that a lot of time can be wasted and spent on dwelling on things that hurt us, whether in the past or presently which ultimately stops our growth. When we cannot move beyond things that hurt us or painful memories, our gifts are on hold and our thinking is impeded. And on the other hand, most of the time, many people only have one resolve to get over this type of situation, with empty comments such as, "let it go, get over it, move on, or stop dwelling in the past", but there's no blueprint on how to complete this task.

And so I say to you, Happy New Year! And Thank God, it's just that, a "new year." Take this new day and new time to heal, (which doesn't come without tears, pain, rejection and or redirection). And others cannot see the blueprint God has created for your life. But that's ok, God's got you. Others cannot tell you how to complete your assignment because its not theirs its yours.

It belongs to you. So after the hurt has hurt you, after the tears have fallen, think of the good thing (s) you love about yourself that brings you joy and that no one has or can do like you and present that to God! Let Him cultivate and develop the good work that He has begun in you. Whether great or small!

In short, be fruitful and multiply yourself, your gifts and your talents while you're here on earth within this New Year! Love Yourself & what God has given you!

Scripture: Genesis 1:28-"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:....."

God Bless You!

#### "The Process of Recovering"

HEART OF

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February 16 at 11am Minister Elect Jon`Tay Hargrove "Prayer" Greater Praise Outreach Ministries Elm City, NC

Minister Elect Quina C. Jackson "Fasting" Greater Praise Outreach Ministries Elm City, NC

Minister Doris Williams "The Presence of God" Greater Praise Outreach Ministries Elm City, NC Overseer JD Williams Lead Pastor & Host February 17 at 11am Rev. Jacquetta Horton Harrison Union Hill Baptist Church Nashville, NC

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# We are excited about 2019. God has great things waiting for us!



#### Write the Vision

Dr. Claude Dangerfield II

At this time of year many people make New Year resolution for all sort of things. What usually happens is that some will digress before the end of the month. The resolution, unfortunately, is rarely fulfilled and they move on. But, how about doing it a little different. Instead of making a resolution, why not write a vision for the future?

In the Holy Bible in Habakkuk 2:2-3 verse 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though *it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.* It is through following the instructions provided by the Word of God we demonstrate, a level of faith. The key to this faith is our obedience to the instructions that have been rendered to us.

"Write the vision and make it plain...that he may run that readeth it." Writing it down is creating a contract with yourself to fulfill your desire. It also serves as a motivator to help you in planning out your pathway to your ultimate finishing point. The vision that you have has manifested within you to push you to another level in life. Because of your desire to see it come to past, you become over anxious for the results. When they don't come when you think they should you want to throw in the towel and become discouraged.

Well, here it is, a different way to look at the delay, for it is not a failure or a total loss in need of abandonment. It could be an opportunity for you to be completely prepared to receive it with all the boxes checked. It comes down to proper timing, being mentally and emotionally ready to sustain the blessing. It would be more disappointing to receive something and lose it by default.

When we read in the Book of *Habakkuk Chapter 2 Verse 3* "*but at the end, it shall speak, and not lie:* Whatever you have in your vision it shall come to pass, because the Word of God does not lie regarding fulfilling our request. John 14:13 states "*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*" So the Word of God cannot lie.

The Word of God instructs us also to wait for it, the vision will surely come. We have to understand God as the loving parent who shelters his child from things that could prove to be harmful. When things come our way that can cause harm, if at that time we are not mature enough in the spirit, until we get to that place of maturity in him. Sometimes it's both mentally and spiritually that we are lacking, and it's the test and trials we have to go through to bring us to a new level of maturity. God may withhold for a season. That is why, the Word of God indicates *"appointed time"* and it is God, not us that determines such a time. So be encourage, and work to get to the place where God sees growth; as we mature, He will start to release our desires and bring them to pass.

Always look for the lesson within everything that we do. Pray for guidance and understanding.

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