



MESSENGER

Vol. 87, No. 7 – August 2026

**GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE IPHC**



TALMADGE GARDNER

**ASSISTANT GENERAL
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE IPHC**



DR. TERRY TRAMEL

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE IPHC FAMILY



Bishop Doug Beacham



Bishop Tommy McGhee



Bishop Garry Bryant

Your leadership, dedication, and faithfulness
have made a lasting impact.

We are grateful for all you have given.



2026

THE YEAR OF THE PASTOR

"I will give you shepherds according to my heart."

Jeremiah 3:15

HAPPY Birthdays

September

Retired Ministers' Birthdays

September 1

Rev. Donald Scott
654 Ivanhoe Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360

September 15

Rev. Ms. Deborah Nall
624 Pine Bluff Street
Malvern, AR 72104

September 30

Rev. Ms. Margaret Rogers
1573 Skeet Club Rd, Unit 334
High Point, NC 27265

September 11

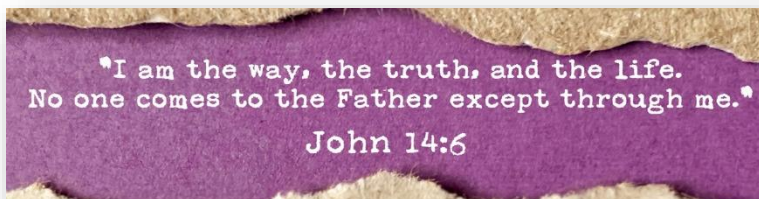
Rev. Jimmie Price
3392 Mt. Zion Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060

September 22

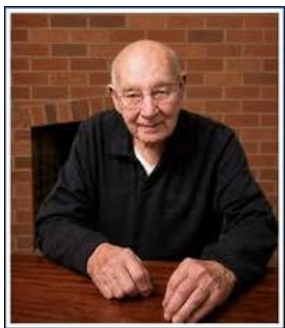
Rev. Ms. Linda Alley
602 Ft. Chiswell Road
Max Meadows, VA 24360

September 30

Rev. Jerry Shepherd
3063 Glasgow Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073



Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord



Billy Joe Boggs, 91, passed peacefully into the Lord's presence on July 16, 2026. He transferred to the Appalachian Conference in 1977 where he faithfully pastored a number of churches in West Virginia and Virginia. His gentle spirit and steadfast love for the Lord will long be remembered. His funeral was held July 25, 2026.



Steven L. Thomas, born May 1, 1959, died at age 67, on July 1, 2026. He was licensed with the Appalachian Conference in 1988. For more than 38 years he dedicated his life to ministry, characterized by humility and compassion. His funeral was held July 10 in Fairlawn, VA.

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 87— August 2026— No. 7

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Deadline for all script to reach the office:

First of each month for the next month's issue
Email to Sandy Wood at woodsh12@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.appconf.org



NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS



The International Pentecostal Holiness Church has elected **Rev. Talmadge Gardner** as its new General Superintendent.

Rev. Gardner brings decades of faithful leadership and service to the IPHC, having served in Christian Education, Evangelism USA, the General Superintendent's Office, Discipleship Ministries, and most recently as Executive Director of World Missions Ministries. The son of IPHC missionaries to South Africa, his lifelong commitment to the Gospel and the global mission of the Church has shaped his ministry for more than four decades.

As Rev. Gardner begins this new chapter of leadership, let us keep him, his wife Stephanie, and their family in our prayers, asking God to grant him wisdom, strength, and grace as he leads the IPHC into the future.



The International Pentecostal Holiness Church has elected **Dr. Terry Tramel** as the new Assistant General Superintendent.

Dr. Tramel brings decades of faithful ministry, leadership, and service to the IPHC. He currently serves as Director of Global Outreach and Leadership Development under World Missions Ministries, where he has invested in equipping leaders, strengthening the Church, and advancing the mission of the Gospel around the world.

He has also served faithfully as an IPHC evangelist and has dedicated years to preparing future leaders, including his time as a professor at Southwestern Christian University. Throughout his ministry, Dr. Tramel has demonstrated a passion for discipleship, leadership development, and seeing the Gospel advance both locally and globally.

He and his wife, Beckie, have faithfully served the Church through many seasons of ministry. As Dr. Tramel begins this new role, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide them with wisdom, strength, and grace as they help lead the IPHC into the future. May God continue to use their faithful service to advance His Kingdom.

"Let us in the Appalachian Conference unite our hearts behind the vision of our new leadership and help build up the kingdom of God!" LM

Takeaways from the 30th General Conference

It is always a joy when God's people gather! Over 1,200 delegates assembled in Mobile, Alabama, for the 30th General Conference of the IPHC. One of the highlights of the week was the opening ceremony, as delegates from all across the US and from around the world participated in worship and communion together. Bishop Doug Beacham reminded us in the time of communion that not all had been served the gospel in our nation and the nations of the world. Our mission is clear: as ministers and churches, God has given us the great commission to make disciples of all nations.

The days and evenings were long, but much was accomplished at this gathering:

- Bishop Talmadge Gardner was elected to lead the IPHC family as our Presiding Bishop.
- The new role of vice chairman was filled as Dr. Terry Tramel becomes Bishop Tramel.
- A restructured church model was approved that merges EVUSA and Discipleship Ministries into a new department called Church Ministries. The director of this ministry and world missions will be nominated by Bishop Gardner and approved by the Council of Bishops.
- The conferences will keep an additional 15% of tithes from churches and ministers. These funds are to be used to encourage and resource our pastors and churches to help grow the kingdom of God. This change will be implemented in two stages over the next 18 months.
- Other miscellaneous changes included defining the work of the executive committee and Council of Bishops in conjunction with the General Superintendent to develop a strategic plan for the denomination to move us into patterns of growth.

Overall, it was a powerful time together when also considering the worship, the preaching and teaching of the Word. This resulted in a great spirit of unity among the delegation. There are great challenges before us in reaching our goals for planting new churches for Arise 2033. However, God is greater and our hearts are to passionately do His will.

Let us in the Appalachian Conference unite our hearts behind the vision of our new leadership and help build up the kingdom of God!



Appalachian Conference Delegation



World Missions & Evangelism

Wes Galford



Greetings, Co-Laborers in the Lord,

Welcome to August! I pray each of you is enjoying a wonderful summer filled with meaningful moments with family and friends. Through every season, God continues to prove His faithfulness and goodness.

As I reflect on the past few months, my heart is filled with gratitude for the many opportunities to gather with our IPHC family and minister through every open door the Lord has provided. We have celebrated camp meeting, witnessed the lasting fruit of our youth camps, experienced General Conference, and now we eagerly anticipate **The Call**.

If you have a young adult in your church, I encourage you to make every effort to help them attend. **The Call**, taking place August 14–16, 2026, is designed to encourage, equip, and inspire the next generation as they pursue God's purpose for their lives. Registration is still open, and thanks to the generosity of those partnering with our conference, the first 65 young adults from the Appalachian Conference can attend **free of charge**. This is an incredible opportunity that they will not want to miss. Please help us spread the word, encourage your young adults to register, and join us in praying that God will move powerfully in their lives during this special weekend.

I am also grateful to share that we have successfully completed our **first internship**, and I can confidently say that God has been faithful every step of the way! It has been a joy to watch Him work through this opportunity, shaping and equipping the next generation for ministry.

Rather than hearing about it from me, I thought it would be best for you to hear directly from our first intern. As you read Isaac Bradshaw's reflections, I pray you will catch a glimpse of how this internship is making a lasting impact, not only on those who participate, but also on the future of our churches and conference. I hope his testimony encourages you to consider how this ministry can help invest in the young adults in your church that God has entrusted to us.

Appalachian Conference IPHC Internship Reflection

The last six weeks have been instrumental in shaping my understanding of leadership, ministry, and God's calling on my life in ways I did not expect. When I began my internship at Liberty Hill PH Church with Pastor Josh Graham, I expected to gain experience preaching and serving in a local church, and I did, but I learned more than what I had anticipated. During my time at Liberty Hill, I had the opportunity to preach multiple times, help baptize people, participate in visitations, serve at Kids Camp, prepare for church events, go to General Conference, and learn directly from Pastor Josh, along with multiple other things. Throughout all of these ways I helped to serve, one message stood out to me the most: It's not what you do, but why you do it. I soon learned that true ministry must come from a sincere love for God and people, rather than a desire for recognition or rank. Along with this change in heart posture, the internship strengthened my desire to preach and serve the church, while also revealing areas in which I still need to grow. The internship gave me a greater burden for the lost and for prodigals, taught me the importance of discipleship, and helped me understand that education and preparation are not delays to my calling, but important parts of pursuing it faithfully.

Two of the ministerial principles that impacted me the most were servant leadership and flexibility. When thinking about servant leadership, one moment stands out to me during Liberty Hill's church picnic. The morning of the church picnic, Pastor Josh and I met early in the morning to begin setting up. All was going well until it started pouring rain while I was wearing dress clothes. By the time we finished setting up, my clothes were soaked, but I still had the responsibility of opening up the service, so I did so in wet clothes. That experience taught me that ministry does not always happen under ideal conditions, and leaders must be willing to serve and fulfill their responsibilities even when the circumstances are inconvenient. The internship also taught me to be flexible. Originally, Pastor Josh and I were not supposed to serve at Kids Camp, but the experience came when Pastor Ron had a shortage of staff members. We decided to help and had a challenging but influential time. Serving at Kids Camp gave us another opportunity to see what ministry looks like in a different setting. The decision to serve at camp also affected me in a personal way. While serving at camp, I met the person who will soon be my roommate at Emmanuel University. An opportunity that was not part of my original plan became part of how God prepared me for the next stage of my life. This opportunity showed me that being flexible is not only accepting inconveniences; it is also about being open to opportunities God may use in unexpected ways.

Spiritually, the internship gave me a greater burden for the lost and specifically for prodigals. Visitations were one of the most impactful parts of the internship, and where my heart for prodigals grew. Along with giving me a greater burden for the lost, the internship also made me more humble and willing to serve. One of the biggest ways the internship humbled me was through showing me how much more I still have to learn. Prior to the internship, I mostly thought about ministry as preaching and using my gifts. During these six weeks, I learned that some of the most impactful ministry happens through personal conversations and acts of service that may never be seen.

The preaching opportunities that Pastor Josh gave me were a major part of my ministry development. During the internship, I preached multiple times on Sunday evenings, once on a Wednesday evening, and once on a Sunday morning. These opportunities allowed me to continue to walk in the call that God has placed on my life and practice the art of public speaking, which in turn led to me seeing drastic improvement in my sermons and confidence. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities Pastor Josh gave me to preach the word of God. In addition to preaching, helping baptize people was another meaningful experience I was able to participate in. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward confession, which reminded me of the purpose of ministry. Everything that ministry entails ultimately is to lead people to make an inward confession, and then express that confession outwardly. Participating in baptisms allowed me to see the fruits of Liberty Hill's labors in a direct and personal way.

While I wish I could say the Internship was smooth sailing at all times, that would not be the truth. Challenges in hopes of improvement were what the internship was designed for. One of the biggest challenges I faced was building relationships with people who were older than me, had different interests, or were in different stages of life. As an eighteen-year-old, I found it difficult to know what to say or how to start a meaningful conversation with someone who was different than me. However, this challenge helped me to recognize how important personal relationships are in ministry. I learned that my ministry should not solely be from a platform. A successful minister knows how to connect with people on a personal level and talk with people long enough to know and understand their heart. While I still have room to improve, my ability and intentionality to build relationships with people over the last six weeks have improved significantly. Continuing to develop this skill will improve my ministry by allowing me to understand people rather than only speaking to them.

Along with the lessons and improvements I gained from ministry, this internship would not have been what it was without Pastor Josh. He gave me opportunities to serve, but he also shared lessons from his own experiences. He spoke honestly about his past mistakes, failures, and successes. His openness to share stories and principles with me will give me insight into situations I may face in the future. While his advice for ministry was strong- especially regarding having tough conversations, understanding that people are not going to be willing to do something you are not willing to do, and sometimes the best answer is silence- he also gave me advice on relationships and fatherhood that I deeply appreciated. Out of all the conversations we had, the main thing I learned from his mentorship was the importance of being disciplined. A person should not attempt to enter ministry believing that passion or talent is enough. Young leaders need experienced people who are willing to pour into their

lives, and I am thankful that is what Pastor Josh did.

Along with discipling me, Pastor Josh helped to identify my strengths and weaknesses. One of my strengths that Pastor Josh continually pointed out is my financial literacy. God has given me a mind and interest in the numbers and business side of ministry, which will be helpful down the road. Another strength that we identified is my willingness to serve. During the internship, I was willing to preach, open services, help with baptisms, make visits, prepare for events and meetings, and serve at camp. However, the internship also showed me that I need to continue to work on my communication, relationship-building, and maturity. Six weeks gave me valuable experience, but it also showed me that there is more that I need to learn, which leads me to my post-internship plans.

At the beginning of the internship, I had no plans to attend college. I wanted to begin working in ministry immediately and enter the workforce. During the IPHC General Conference, however, Bishop Preston Mathena invited me to visit Emmanuel University. Out of respect for his invitation, I decided to go down to Franklin Springs, Georgia, to check out the campus and meet the people in charge. As the internship continued, I began to see education and discipleship differently. The internship taught me that learning and being discipled are two of the best investments an eighteen-year-old can make. I now realize that attending college would not halt my current ministry; rather, it would be another way to continue to pursue the call of God on my life. With this new perspective in mind, I will be attending Emmanuel University this fall, not as a delay in my ministry, but as part of preparation.

The Scripture that best represents my leadership journey and future calling is one Pastor Josh shared with me during one of our first conversations—1 Timothy 4:12: “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12 NKJV). This scripture stuck with me since it reminds me that my age does not prevent God from using me, and ministry is more than ability. I must continue to lead through my conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity, no matter where I go or what I do.

This six-week internship at Liberty Hill was life-changing. Through preaching, visitations, baptisms, camp, service, and mentorship, the call of God on my life has been strengthened while showing me how much I still need to learn. As I prepare to attend Emmanuel University, I want to remain humble, flexible, teachable, and willing to serve, trusting that this internship has helped prepare me for the next chapter of God’s calling on my life.

Isaac Bradshaw

As you can tell, the internship is a valuable program that helps develop the next generation of leaders through intentional investment, practical ministry experience, and meaningful mentorship. If you know a young adult who is sensing God's call or a pastor who would be willing to mentor an intern, I encourage you to prayerfully consider becoming part of this ministry. Together, we can equip and encourage the leaders God is raising up for the future of His Church. Please have them reach out today!



PARTNERING WITH YOU!

LOCAL CHURCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
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FEEL CALLED TO MINISTRY?

AGES 18-25

LEARN, LEAD, AND GROW THROUGH OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
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A weekend of
mentorship,
training and
connection for
those 18 - 25 years
of age who feel a
call of God on
their life for
ministry, missions
or music.



THE CALL 2026



August 14 - 16, 2026
Appalachian Conference

For more information

www.appconf.org
540.674.4131 ext. 207



DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES





Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



ONE WEEK CAN CHANGE A LIFE

Camp Statistics

2026

High School Camp: Attendance: 192 Students

Salvations: 39
Rededications: 73
Sanctifications: 88
Baptism in the Holy Spirit: 72

Middle School Camp: Attendance: 142 Students

Salvations: 72
Rededications: 21
Sanctifications: 55
Baptism in the Holy Spirit: 14

Elementary Camp: Attendance: 145 Students

Salvations: 70
Rededications: 34
Sanctifications: 51
Baptism in the Holy Spirit: 10

Total: Total Attendance: 479 Students

Salvations: 181
Rededications: 128
Sanctifications: 194
Baptism in the Holy Spirit: 96
Healings: 202

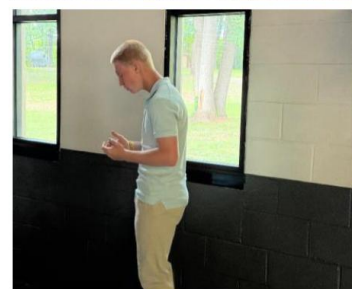
Call To Ministry

Pastoral: 24
Children's Ministry: 55
Youth: 53
Music: 88
Missions: 35
Evangelism: 20



**We rejoice in all that God did
in these 3 weeks. Only heaven
will record the final story
and full impact!**

**THANK YOU TO CHURCHES, PASTORS AND
FAMILIES AS WELL AS THE 173 WORKERS WHO MADE THESE
WEEKS POSSIBLE!**





**Congratulations
to our
Appalachian
Conference
National
Fine Arts &
Youth Quest
participants:**

BUENA VISTA PHC

Abel Williams, Kyle Smals, Gracie
Pelter & Dylan Smals.
Leaders: Kyle Parks & David Black.

HILLSVILLE PHC

Olivia Simone, Talon Henley, Jordan
Willis, Gabe Payne, Toren Henley,
Aaliyah Hampton, Maggie Carico &
Bella Phipps.
Leaders Tina & Steve Winesett.

LIBERTY HILL PHC

Hannah Graham,
Hannah Benway & James Jones.
Leader Angie Benway.

LIFE CHANGERS PHC

Brooke Parnell, Mikaela Johnson,
Noah Johnson, Seth Ortiz, Atlantis
Johnson, Dylan Rife, Arlie Bunn &
Travis Rife.
*Leaders Zack & Alexandria Cook
(Locklan & Wrenley), Kiara Brewster
& Dylan Jones.*

**NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES**

Faith Pardue, Addison Sayre,
Zadok Underwood,
Annakate Dickinson, Derek Furrow
& Chris Walker.
*Leaders J. T. Turner
& Kara Dickinson.*

ST. PAUL PHC

Emma McGee &
Abigail Hillenberg.
*Leaders Matt and Ashley Akers,
Mike & Beth McGee
& Selena Hillenberg.*



PASTORS REGISTER FOR FREE!!

“7 Pillars of Discipleship”
with Bishop Scott Hampton



**Register
Here**

Bishop Scott Hampton currently serves as the Conference Superintendent of the Great Plains Conference of the IPHC. He also serves on the IPHC Council of Bishops (COB), the Strategic Advisory Committee and as a consultant for Discipleship Ministries on the Discipleship Ministries Committee. In October of 2024, he was elected to serve as the Chairman of the SCU Board of Trustees where he has served since 2014.

**SCOTT HAS A HEART
AND PASSION FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

**AUGUST 22,
2026**

10:00 – 3:00

(JOIN US AT 9:30 AM
FOR COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS)

**REGISTRATION \$10
(**PASTORS ARE FREE!**)**

**DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES TRAINING**

**CONFERENCE
CAMPGROUND**

Discipleship
—MATTERS—

Brad Huddleston is an internationally respected speaker, consultant, teacher, and author on important issues such as technology and culture. He has worked with universities, schools, churches, and law enforcement. He has spoken to hundreds of thousands worldwide on the advantages of well-used technology tools and the dangers of the growing trend toward technology addiction. Brad is the author of *Digital Rehab: Learning to Live Again in the Real World*, *Digital Cocaine: A Journey Toward iBalance*, and *The Dark Side of Technology: Restoring Balance in the Digital Age*.

“Digital Cocaine”
with Brad Huddleston



PASTORS REGISTER FOR FREE!!



Flourish

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

September 11-13, 2026

Girls ages 9-17

Appalachian Conference Camp Grounds

Registration: \$80

Speaker:

Karla Powell

Worship:

Dara Short-

Worship Warrior Battle Cry

Afternoon Entertainment:

NRV SUPERBOWL -

Bowling and Lazer Tag



ELAINE WOOD
CONFERENCE GIRLS
MINISTRIES' DIRECTOR



540-357-5614



5900 Maranatha Street, Dublin, VA



REGISTER HERE!



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AMONG THOSE 50 AND OVER!

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AT THE

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2026



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
N.R. TAYLOR - 276-620-3214

STARTS AT 11:00AM

REGISTER
BY CONTACTING
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EXT. 201

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE BOYS' MINISTRIES CAMP-OUT

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<https://appconf.org/boys-ministry>**

ENCORE MINISTRIES

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



SUGAR CREEK, OHIO

NOVEMBER 17 - 19, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
N. R. & SARAH TAYLOR AT 276.620.3214



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



A Night of Worship with Rita Springer

Three years ago in Modesto, California, I was introduced to an amazing lady by the name of Rita Springer. She made a lasting impact on my life as I spent quality time getting to know her and hear her heart for Jesus. Her life has been one of ups and downs, and yet her faith has remained strong and focused on what God has anointed her to do. Her testimony of desiring to be married, not having that prayer answered, to adopting a baby boy, raising him as a single mom, leading worship, writing songs and using her gifts to glorify God, is inspiring.

"Rita is one of the most gifted worship leaders to arise over the last fifteen years. She believes that the joy of being a worship leader is to make those listening jealous for what has been found in Christ. Making Christ famous through the art, act and physical sound of our worship is Rita's anthem and her deepest desire is to see this arise in the body of Christ. Her motto is: 'To make the Lord famous in whatever I do with my worship and relationship with Him'. Born out of that deep desire and to see women free through the tools of the Word, Worship and Prayer, she started her own women's conference in 2000 called 'Fragrant Oil.' It was an incredible season of 7 years watching God use worship powerfully to transform lives across the globe.

In 2008, she began a worship school called DIVE (Deep - Innovative - Vertical - Expression). The school trains and encourages upcoming worship leaders all over the world with weeklong intensive one-on-one courses. Staying true to her calling, Rita continues to write new songs and leads worship at churches, conferences and events around the country. Rita released her first book in 2013, *Finding Eve*."

"Worship is my Weapon" is a weekly podcast that Rita hosts, featuring conversations about worship, faith and personal testimonies, with guests including John Bevere and Natalie Grant. You can watch her live on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

We are excited to host Rita in Dublin, Virginia, on Friday, November 13 @ 7:00 p.m. at the IPHC Appalachian Conference tabernacle. We hope you will make plans to join us for this powerful night of worship.



World Intercession Network

Donna Hankla



I WILL REPAY, SAYS THE LORD

There has been much teaching about trusting God for concerns such as health, finances, peace, and even one's purpose. However, learning to trust God to take care of an unjust situation is difficult for most people! But there will come times when we encounter unjust situations. How will we respond?

David was a man who trusted God to deliver him from the unjust and cruel acts of King Saul. He responded with faith and confidence that God would prevail!

*Vindicate me, O God,
And plead my cause against an ungodly nation:
Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!
For You are the God of my strength:
Why do You cast me off? (Psalm 43:1, 20 NKJV)*

During times like these, we must remember that God's ways are higher than ours!

*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8,9 NKJV)*

Even after King Saul died, David had to continue to trust God for the position of leadership. King Saul's grip on the kingdom represented a political attempt to hold onto power. However, David's pursuit of the kingdom reflected a divine appointment. A struggle between these two powers took place for a period of 7 1/2 years. After this period of time, David was anointed as king over all of Israel.

During this time period, Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth, ruled over 11 tribes. David ruled over Judah. David's household grew stronger. Saul's household became weaker and eventually lost power.

Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker (II Samuel 3:1 NKJV).

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN

What do the scriptures mean by the phrase, “to whom much is given, much will be required” (Luke 12:48)? Looking at this scripture in context is important. Prior to this statement, Jesus had told a parable which emphasized the importance of being ready for His return. We should use our talents, wealth, knowledge and even time to serve God and to help others. Those who are entrusted with power and authority are held responsible by divine powers. If they abuse their powers, they may seem to get by with no accountability on this earth. However, they will have to answer to heaven for their actions. *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31 NKJV).*

INTERCESSION

Intercession can change the hearts of men and even God. Consider Apostle Paul. Prior to becoming an apostle, he tortured and abused the people of God. He did so under the pretense of religion. But people were praying for him. His hateful attitude towards God’s people changed when he took a trip to Damascus. *Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest (Acts 9:1 NKJV).* While he traveled on the road to Damascus, a light suddenly shone around him. It was a light from heaven. (Acts 9:3) He also heard a voice from heaven. *Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? (Acts 9:4 NKJV)* This encounter led to his conversion!

MOSES INTERCEDED

It was a dark time for the nation of Israel, when Moses came off the mountain where he had been communing with God. They had lost patience with Moses while he was receiving the 10 commandments. During the delay, they pressured Aaron to make them other gods. They acted foolishly as they rose up to play. (Exodus 32:6) Their idolatry angered God, and He intended to consume them. (Exodus 32:10) God told Moses to leave Him alone so He could execute judgment. (v. 9) But Moses was a light for the nation. His intercession for the people brought light! His intercession touched the heart of God, and judgment was averted! (Exodus 32: 30-35 NKJV)

AMOS INTERCEDED

Another dark time for the nation of Israel occurred during the ministry of the prophet Amos. God was planning to send a judgment of locust swarms upon the land. Some of the sins included *ease in Zion*. (Amos 6:1) The leaders had become wealthy and complacent. Their priorities were to enjoy their wealth. They chose to ignore the poor, those who were suffering. But Amos interceded for the people. His light of intercession changed God’s mind. Judgment that had been divinely planned was now cancelled! (Amos 7:3)

WHAT DO WE DO DURING DARK TIMES?

It can be discouraging to see unjust acts, immorality, and corruption around us. But we must not dwell on the negative. Like Moses and Amos, we can shine the light of intercession! We have two choices. We can complain and curse the darkness and those who cause it. Or we can shine our lights of intercession.

There is one thing that defeats darkness. When light shines brightly, darkness flees!



Sweet September

- 7 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 11-13 Girls' Ministries Retreat
- 18 ATAM Golf Tournament
- 19 Senior Picnic
- 24-26 Leadership Council