



VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC

MESSENGER

Vol. 84, No. 2 February 2023

GREAT COMMISSION MEALS

March 20 – 25, 2023



Greenbrier District – Monday, March 20 – 12 noon

Caldwell PHC, (Michael Neel, Pastor) 35611 Midland Trail East, Caldwell, WV 24925

Please **RSVP by March 6, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Central West Virginia District – Monday, March 20 - 6:00 p.m.

The Dream Center, 224 Pinewood Drive, Beckley, WV 25801

Please **RSVP by March 6, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Roanoke/Central Virginia Districts – Tuesday, March 21 – 12 noon

Original Italian Pizza, 1128 E. Lynchburg Salem Tpke., Ste. 300, Bedford, VA 24523

Shenandoah Valley District – Tuesday, March 21 – 6:00 p.m.

Ray of Hope PHC (Bill Marion, Pastor), 1450 Reservoir Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Please **RSVP by March 7, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

New River Valley District – Thursday, March 23 – 6:00 p.m.

Appalachian Training Center, 5905 Maranatha Street, Dublin, VA 24084

Please **RSVP by March 9, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

Southwest Virginia District – Friday, March 24 – 6:00 p.m.

Liberty Hill PHC (Josh Graham, Pastor), 181 Old School Road, Wytheville, VA 24382

Please **RSVP by March 10, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

East Tennessee District – Saturday, March 25 – 11:30 a.m.

Maple Grove Restaurant, 1207 Gouge Road, Unicoi, TN 37692

Bluefield/McDowell Districts – Saturday, March 25 – 5:00 p.m.

Destiny Outreach PHC (Steve Branch, Pastor), 106 Ireson Road, North Tazewell, VA 24630

Please **RSVP by March 10, 2023** to Vanessa Scruggs at vanessascruggs5847@gmail.com

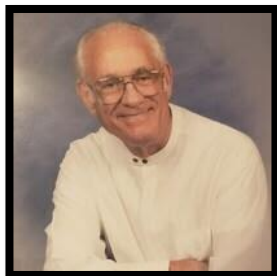
MARCH RETIRED MINISTERS' BIRTHDAYS

March 24

Rev. Thomas Cochran
204 Woodland Drive
Buena Vista, VA 24416



REV. DR. TONY BRESCIA GOES HOME



1929 - 2023

Rev. Dr. Tony Brescia, 93, went to be with the Lord on January 20, 2023, at his home in Forest, VA. He was ordained as a minister with the Appalachian Conference in 1956. He was a man of prayer who reflected Jesus' love for people. He will be remembered, too, for the many, many phone calls he made for the purpose of offering prayer.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Drema Brescia, a son, daughter, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held on February 3, with interment following in the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 84— February 2023— No. 2

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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



The #1 Most Advantageous Leadership Trait

By Dan Reiland

Leaders who possess a disposition of positivity seem to make more progress, lead with more hope, and in general, manage stress better. A positive spirit doesn't prevent pain or guarantee success, but it establishes the path forward toward the best possible outcomes. This is a clear **leadership advantage**.

This begs the question, "Is having a positive spirit genetic or a choice?" Is it natural or can it be learned? Yup, the answer is both. That's good news. While some leaders come by a disposition of positivity more naturally, and others must invest more intentional effort and energy, for both, it's still a choice to practice it consistently.

The following five biases are ways you can focus your positive outlook, your leadership toward a disposition of positivity.

1) A bias toward belief

When you meet someone new, what is your most common first reaction? Do you lean slightly toward skeptical or more toward believing the best? That difference truly matters.

Discernment is always important, but people can sense how you feel about them and will always interact better with you if they know you'll give them the benefit of the doubt.

People will rise to the level of your belief in them, even if in the beginning, you believe in them more than they believe in themselves.

Believing the best in someone isn't blind faith or dismissing common sense, discernment and timing. Believing the best gives a person the best opportunity to be their best self.

2) A bias toward the future

We should be grateful for what we have learned from the past, but good leaders always keep their eyes focused on the future.

The necessity to lean into the future may seem obvious, but all too often leaders hold on to the past. It's not because they don't want to move forward, but more about things like these:

- Not knowing how
- Comfortable with the past
- Difficult to sustain a positive outlook
- Fear of the unknown
- Exhausted from leading change

The first step in leading toward the future is a deep acceptance that you can't go back to what "was." The second step is a willingness to pay the price to press forward.

3) A bias toward risk

It's impossible to lead into the future without taking some risks. What risks are you thinking through for the first half of 2023?

The risks we need to take are not always grand or dramatic, but they are compounding in nature and help shape courageous and faith-filled leadership. If your leadership wiring leans more risk-averse, it's a good idea to have a small team help you with key decisions. A team that includes at least one leader who more readily embraces risk.

One of the most powerful elements of a positive disposition is how strongly that influences the outcome of the risk. It's not a guarantee, but the positive anticipation creates momentum in the right direction.

4) A bias toward action

Second-guessing direction and decision nearly always slows down or lessens the commitment to take action.

When you have a positive outlook on your direction, meaning you have emotionally embraced it, and you therefore have committed to your decision and are prepared to take action, you are poised for progress.

Taking action requires both an intellectual buy-in to the strategy but also a heart level enthusiasm. That is, a positive belief in the plan you make. In short, are you excited about it?!

What is one important decision that you've been delaying and it's time to take action?

5) A bias toward completion

A great idea is of no real or lasting value if you never execute it to full completion.

Unfinished projects are notorious for derailing the progress of otherwise really good leaders. What is waiting for you to finish in the next 30-60 days?

Unfinished projects, ministries, conversations, and initiatives are:

- A waste of time
- Discouraging
- An ever-present source of nagging to the soul of a leader

It may be better to take a deep breath and just be honest, you're not going to do it. Delete the files, take it off the list and move on!

If you are confident that it needs to be done, then ask yourself, what is preventing you from completing the project? Tackle that roadblock in the next two weeks.

A bias toward belief, the future, risk, action and completion practiced regularly are both outcomes of a positive disposition and action steps toward cultivating a positive disposition.



World Missions & Evangelism

Larry Meadors



A Million Reasons

A long-standing challenge that has been before us as a conference was to collectively give a million dollars in a one-year period for world missions. That amount is a high bar, demonstrating a passion for generosity. The motivation to give beyond our own preconceived limits is for the millions of people that sit in darkness, needing the light of Jesus Christ. By God's grace and help, in the year 2022, the challenge was surpassed with **\$1,006,950.67 in total conference missions giving!** Thank you, Appalachian Conference pastors, mission directors and church families, for a record-breaking year for the harvest! Congratulations!

This represents an increase of over \$71,000 in giving over the previous year. Wait, we are not done celebrating yet. Look at what happened in the Global Outreach Offering. Another record giving year was experienced. For the first time ever, the GO offering topped over \$200,000, with a grand total of \$222,378.27! This is a God thing! In just one year, your GO giving grew by over \$25,000! Again, thank you for your extravagant giving for the Great Commission.

These great testimonies continue to be a reflection of the Appalachian Conference's desire to be a world mission minded people. For over 100 years, our commitment has been and is to raise up and send out missionaries to the corners of the globe. Our commitment to prayer and giving for this cause remains unwavering.

Where do we go from here? Upward. God's order still stands. Do you know what time it is? It continues to be the day where we work for His kingdom to come. Missionaries need to be sent out, churches built, children fed and the gospel proclaimed. My heart is that we never reach a level of contentment but realize that faith moves us forward. The need is great. Our sights are now set on a GO offering of \$250,000 a year and a sustained growth of over a million dollars in total giving. **The million reasons are people.**

2022 Top 3 Churches in Total Missions Giving

Christian Life International - \$71,688

Harbor of Hope - \$53,045

Beckley Praise - \$44,246

2022 Top 3 Churches-Global Outreach Offering

Trinity Fellowship - \$20,050

Harbor of Hope - \$20,000

Shenandoah - \$10,000

Pastors and mission directors -

Join us in March for the Great Commission Meals to hear directly from our missionaries on what God is doing around the world through the IPHC.

<https://appconf.org/great-commission-meals>

Our Refuge in Blacksburg

A new seed is being planted on the campus of Virginia Tech that has the promise of being a fruitful vine across our region. Pastor Rick Sizemore has a vision of establishing a discipleship based church and campus ministry that can be reproduced on other college campuses. In just 3 short months, the core group has grown to 20, with



Pastor Rick Sizemore

strategic people aligning themselves with this large God-sized vision. One couple has relocated from California for this express purpose.

The church facilities are also being readied for growth. New restrooms are being installed and plans are underway to remodel rooms that will serve as children and youth areas. All this activity has charged the atmosphere with faith and hope for a solid launch into the Blacksburg community and VT campus.

Pastor Jeff Pickett and the Hillsville PH church have caught this vision and are supporting this new work financially. Other pastors have talked with Pastor Rick about sending interns to partner with the ministry of Our Refuge. Pastor Rick wants to connect with any of our PHC students at Virginia Tech. Contact our office for more information on ways to connect to this vision.

How Does a Church Planting Movement Start?

No doubt prayer precedes any movement of God. Prayer for revival. Prayer for new ways to reach our communities. Prayer blooms into a call where we declare before God: *Here I am, send me!* Are you sensing that call of planting or helping to plant a new church? Are you searching for what is next in your life, but not sure? There is an outstanding upcoming event you need to attend.

A movement progresses beyond prayer into walking through God's open door of ministry. A strategic opportunity is in our midst. A Church Planting Intensive training is scheduled to be held at Christian Life International in Salem, Va., March 29-31. May God use this event to ignite a planting movement across the Appalachian Conference!

This is an EVUSA event. Register for this training at www.plantachurch.us



Discipleship Ministries

Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

April 28 & 29, 2023

\$25 Single Entry

\$50 Group Entry

**CONFERENCE
CAMPGROUNDS**



2023

BIBLE QUIZ

**Studying the Book of
Hebrews**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES OFFICE AT 540-674-4131 EXT. 201

2023 FINE ARTS MINISTRY REGISTRATION FORM

MAIL TO:

[PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE]

CHECK ONE:

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY

GROUP ENTRY

GROUPS must provide a complete list of each participants name, address, age & date of birth!

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ST. _____

Zip _____

Church Name: _____

Coach's Name: _____

I have read and understand all 2023 Fine Arts Guidelines

Coach's Signature: _____

Coach's Email: _____

Coach's Phone Number: _____

For Office Use Only:

Date Recv.: _____

Check #: _____

Cash: _____

Amt. Recv.: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

- 1 Vocal Solo: Junior
- 2 Vocal Solo: Alpha
- 3 Vocal Solo: Omega
- Self-Accompaniment
- Live/Recorded Accompaniment
- A~capella
- Rap
- 4 Vocal Ensemble: Junior
- 5 Vocal Ensemble: Teen
- Self-Accompaniment
- Live/recorded Accompaniment
- A~capella
- Rap
- 6 Instrumental Solo: Junior
- 7 Instrumental Solo: Alpha
- 8 Instrumental Solo: Omega
- Instrument: _____
- 9 Instrumental Ensemble: Junior
- 10 Instrumental Ensemble: Teen
- 11 Worship Band: Junior
- 12 Worship Band: Teen

MINISTRY IN MESSAGE

- 13 Short Sermon: Junior
- 14 Short Sermon: Alpha
- 15 Short Sermon: Omega
- 16 Audible Drama INDV.: Junior
- 17 Audible Drama INDV.: Alpha
- 18 Audible Drama INDV.: Omega
- Genre: _____
- 19 Audible Drama Group: Junior
- 20 Audible Drama Group: Teen
- Genre: _____
- 21 Creative Writing INDV.: Junior
- 22 Creative Writing INDV.: Alpha
- 23 Creative Writing INDV.: Omega
- Genre: _____
- 24 Song Writing: Junior
- 25 Song Writing: Alpha
- 26 Song Writing: Omega

MINISTRY IN MOVEMENT

- 27 Worship Dance INDV.: Junior
- 28 Worship Dance INDV.: Alpha
- 29 Worship Dance INDV.: Omega
- Genre: _____
- 30 Worship Dance Group: Junior
- 31 Worship Dance Group: Teen
- Genre: _____
- 32 Inaudible Drama INDV.: Junior
- 33 Inaudible Drama INDV.: Alpha
- 34 Inaudible Drama INDV.: Omega
- Genre: _____
- 35 Inaudible Drama Group: Junior
- 36 Inaudible Drama Group: Teen
- Genre: _____
- 37 Expressive Worship INDV.: Junior
- 38 Expressive Worship INDV.: Alpha
- 39 Expressive Worship INDV.: Omega
- Genre: _____
- 40 Expressive Worship Group: Junior
- 41 Expressive Worship Group: Teen
- Genre: _____

A Separate Registration Form
Must Be Filled Out For Each
Entry. Please Read All Rules.

MINISTRY IN MEDIA

- 42 Visual Art (Painting & Drawing): Junior
- 43 Visual Art (Painting & Drawing): Alpha
- 44 Visual Art (Painting & Drawing): Omega
- Painting
- Drawing
- 45 Computer-Generated Art: Junior
- 46 Computer-Generated Art: Alpha
- 47 Computer-Generated Art: Omega
- 48 Creative Art (Fabricated/3-D) Junior
- 49 Creative Art (Fabricated/3-D) Alpha
- 50 Creative Art (Fabricated/3-D) Omega
- Fabricated
- 3-D

- 51 Photography / Videography: Junior
- 52 Photography / Videography: Alpha
- 53 Photography / Videography: Omega
- Photography
- Videography
- 54 Digital Art (Communication & Graphic Design): Junior
- 55 Digital Art (Communication & Graphic Design): Alpha
- 56 Digital Art (Communication & Graphic Design): Omega
- Communication
- Graphic Design

**THIS FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR
CONFERENCE WEBSITE appconf.org or by calling
Mrs. Alice at 540-674-4131 ext. 201**

**2023 Fine Arts
Group Registration Form**

[Please Print in Ink or Type]

Deadline:

Mail to:

Category Code:	_____
Group Name:	_____
Church Name:	_____
Coach's Name:	_____
Number in Group:	_____ Page _____ of _____
Coach's Signature:	_____
Coach's Email:	_____
Coach's Cell #:	_____

1) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

7) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

2) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

8) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

3) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

9) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
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4) Name _____
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City _____ ST _____
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10) Name _____
Address _____
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5) Name _____
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Phone # _____

11) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

6) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

12) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____
Zip _____ DOB _____
Phone # _____

**THIS FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR
CONFERENCE WEBSITE appconf.org or by calling
Mrs. Alice at 540-674-4131 ext. 201**

**APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES / MEN'S MINISTRIES**
PRESENTS

MEN'S RALLY



Saturday, April 15, 2023

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Lunch 12 - 1:00 pm

Guest Speaker 1:00 - 2:30 pm

\$15 (lunch included)

**To pre-register: Call 540-674-4131, ext. 201
or email dmsecretary1@aol.com**

For questions and inquiries, you may contact:



**Ron Fredericks
Discipleship Ministries Director
540-674-4131, ext. 206**





DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT

May 20, 2023

9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE GROUNDS



Tommy McGhee
Executive Director
Discipleship Ministries, IPHC

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Tommy McGhee - Two morning sessions

Lunch: 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Sessions: 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

- Breakout session for Children, Youth, Men, Women and Worship Leaders
- Q & A Session for Pastors with Bishop Tommy McGhee

\$15 Registration Fee (Lunch included)

May 19, 2023

6:30 pm at the Training Center

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS ROUNDTABLE





Men's Ministries

Steve Winesett



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE

PRESENTS

The 22nd Master's Seedtime Golf Classic

May 19, 2023

Blue Ridge Country Club
Galax, Virginia

For questions and inquiries, you may contact:



Steve Winesett
Men's Ministries Director
336-408-2008



Sponsored by: Appalachian Conference Men's Ministries



Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



"A HEART FOR THE BROKEN"

I so often find myself asking the Lord to give me the compassion for people that He has. It's not that I don't love people, I do! But after years of ministry, it becomes easier to see the person on the outside instead of the heart that is breaking on the inside. I find my heart is not as soft as it used to be. A survival mechanism? Maybe.

Being in ministry has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I enjoy it all. Every minute of it. I consider it an honor to be a very small part of sharing the gospel to a broken world. Therefore, I can't afford to allow myself to forget about the "WHY" I answered the call.

Matthew 9:36 says, *"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*

That's it! That is the "WHY" I said "yes" to the call when the Lord stirred my heart. If I forget my mission, I will no longer see the heart of the alcoholic who lives under the bridge who asks God every day to help him not be that way. So I can reach the woman who has the needle in her arm begging God to rescue her, or the one crying out to God for help when they feel they have no hope. I may be the one to speak life to that broken lady who has always been told she will never be anything or do anything. These are just a few of the reasons that I can't afford to lose my heart for the broken. Their lives may depend on my obedience and compassion for them.

What about you? Have you found yourself being a little hard hearted toward those around you? Maybe the fire that was in your belly in the beginning of your ministry is dwindling; you don't seem to have the compassion toward others that you once had. Maybe it's time to go back to where you started and remember the "WHY" that you answered the call. Time is short. Jesus is coming and we have work to do. Ask the Lord to restore your heart for the broken. Lives depend on it!



Restoration



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Appalachian Conference Women's Ministries

FREE EVENT

Friday, March 31, 2023
7:00 PM

Harbor of Hope
2720 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, VA 24073



Keynote Speaker
Rev Veronica McGlothlin



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
WM DIRECTOR, TAMMY PORTER
pastortammy511@yahoo.com





NO ALTAR! NO VICTORY!

Frequently, we talk about our problems. But do we spend time praying about these problems?

Scriptures tell us that we do not receive, because we do not ask!

“You lust, and have not, you kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because YOU DO NOT ASK. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:2,3).

WHAT IS A PRAYER ALTAR?

In basic terms, a PRAYER ALTAR is a place where we meet with God in prayer! A PRAYER ALTAR is a portal through which the supernatural realm of the spirit intervenes in the physical realm!

In the Old Testament, altars were used to make sacrifices for the atonement of sin. Today, prayer altars are places where we REPENT of our sins, and receive right standing in the sight of God.

HE REAPED A HUNDREDFOLD

During a time of famine, when crops failed, one man prospered. Isaac prospered because he built altars of prayer, for the purpose of meeting with God. *“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold and the Lord blessed him” (Genesis 26:12).*

HE BUILT AN ALTAR

Doors had been SHUT for Isaac. He traveled to the valley of Gerar. Isaac dug a well, which they had dug during the days of Abraham, his father. He had every right to this well. Yet, the Philistines stopped him. (Genesis 26:17-35)

Isaac and his men left and dug in the valley and found a well of springing water. Again, he was SHUT OUT! The herdsmen of Gerar fought against his men. They said that the well belonged to them. Then, Isaac and his men dug another well. Again, a fight occurred. They left and dug another well. Nobody fought over this well. The DOOR opened for Isaac and his men. He called the name of it Rehoboth. This means: *“For now the Lord has made ROOM for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land”* (Genesis 26:22). The Lord appeared to Isaac the same night. He was blessed with God’s Presence and Promises. Then he built an altar to honor God!

BENEFITS OF THE PRAYER ALTAR

Due to limited time, I will only mention a few benefits of a Prayer Altar:

- *The prayer altar provides us the opportunity to encounter God!
- *Battles are fought and won at the Altar of Prayer!
- *Deliverance occurs on the Altar of Prayer!
- *The Prayer Altar changes destinies!
- *At the Prayer Altar, our lives become a terror to the kingdom of darkness!

Make
time
to Pray



MARCH CALENDAR

- 1-3 Ministers' Summit-Pigeon Forge**
- 11 Dr. Dan Wood-Ministers' Class-Campgrounds**
- 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- Women's Ministries Day**
- 17 Fine Arts Registration Due**
- 18 Micro-Site Training-Cornerstone Conference**
- 20 Great Commission Meals:**
 - Greenbrier District/Central WV District**
 - 21 Roanoke/Central VA Dist/Shenandoah District**
 - 23 New River Valley District**
 - 24 Southwest Virginia District**
 - 25 East TN/Bluefield & McDowell Dists.**
 - 26 Womens' Ministries Virtual Event**
- 24-26 Preview Weekend Emmanuel College**
- 29-31 Church Planting Intensive Training-CLI**
- 31 W.M. Spring Conference-Life Changers Christian Ctr**