

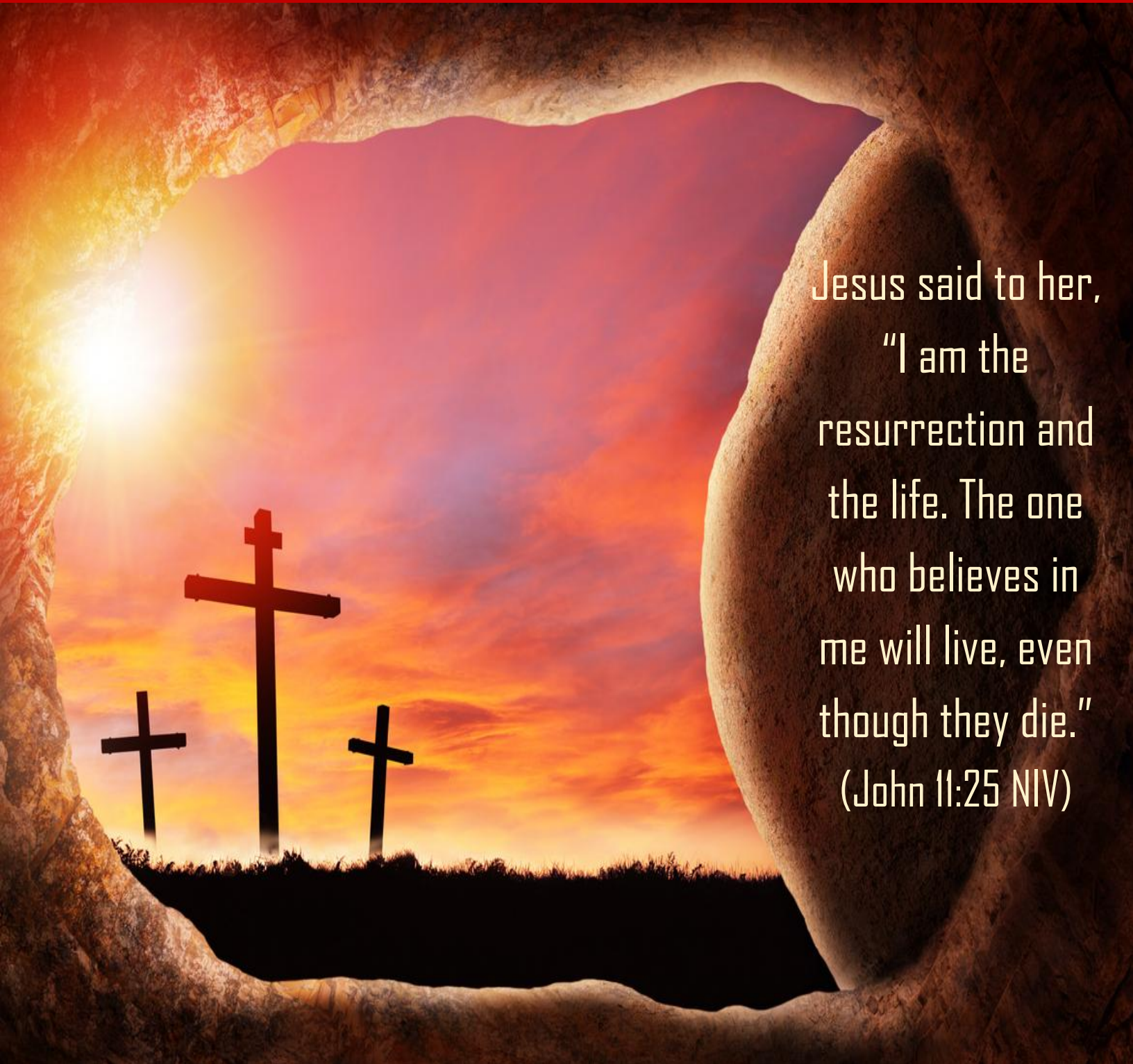
VOICE OF THE APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE OF THE IPHC



MESSENGER

Vol. 87, No. 4 – April 2026

Jesus said to her,
“I am the
resurrection and
the life. The one
who believes in
me will live, even
though they die.”
(John 11:25 NIV)



2026
THE YEAR OF THE PASTOR

"I will give you shepherds according to my heart."
Jeremiah 3:15

HAPPY Birthdays

May Retired Ministers' Birthdays

May 16

Rev. Gary Cope
5750 Stephen Drive
Dublin, VA 24084

May 31

Dr. C.R. Conner
1144 Windsor Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301

Appalachian Conference *Messenger*

Vol. 87— April 2026— No. 4

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Board Member – Wes Galford
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Board Member – Todd Porter

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



2026 *Inspirational*
Conference
Saturday, April 25

CONNECT
time
Coffee & Doughnut Fellowship

Coffee/Doughnuts
8:45–9:25 a.m.

Conference begins
9:30 a.m.

The poster features a blue background with a large, stylized 'CONNECT time' logo in orange and white. Below the logo, there are images of coffee beans, a coffee cup, and doughnuts. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, providing all necessary details for the event.



The Bishop's Page

Larry Meadors



Ministers, do you remember the day?

I remember the day, in June of 1986, that I was ordained by the Virginia Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. (Now Appalachian Conference IPHC). It was a huge moment for Gloria and I to sit holding hands together in front of the Conference body. The presiding officer, Bishop B.E. Underwood, laid his hands on me and ordained me into the ministry. What an exciting ministry journey that we continue to celebrate and recommit to!

Minister, do you remember that day you were licensed or ordained? Take a moment to think about it. Why do we, as a Conference, license and ordain ministers for the preaching of the gospel?

- The laying on of hands for ministry is a biblical precedent that the early church followed to perpetuate the advancing of the gospel message to the world. (Acts 6:6)
- You become part of the IPHC faith family with ministry that reaches over 120 countries of the world. You can literally preach in your community and around the world. I so enjoy the privilege of being with our Conference churches and also being welcomed in 50 countries and counting.
- Open doors. Being part of the Conference can open doors of ministry for you. However, Bishop Underwood reminded me and the others that day that the conference did not owe us anything! He quoted Proverbs 18:16, "that a man's gift makes room for him." He emphasized the importance of finding and pursuing God's will for my life and ministry and not wait for it to be handed to me.
- All of us in ministry need accountability and spiritual covering. This relationship between the Conference and our ministers is one that encourages, resources and trains on a continual basis.
- Acceptance into ministry is a recognition by your peers of the call of God on your life.
- Being an ordained minister can give you legal standing against the cultural tides that undermine our society.
- Giving. As a minister, our tithe is sown into good soil of regional and global ministries that are producing good fruit.

Pastors and ministers, as we gather this month for our Annual Conference, we will again license and ordain new ministers, as we have done for 116 years. I ask you to take this opportunity to recall the call on your life. This is an annual opportunity of personal recommitment to passionately pursuing the ministry of the kingdom of God. Preach the Word. Pray for the sick. Live a life that pleases God. Raise up this generation to know and accept the call of God. They need you and you need them. Together, let's do the work of ministry until He comes or calls.



My ordination day in 1986.

From left to right, Walter Lee Wood, B.E. Underwood, Edward Wood, Glennard Quesenberry, and Larry Rogers.

MINISTERS' SUMMIT 2026

This year's Ministers' and Spouse Summit was a wonderful time of fellowship and anointed ministry. Special thanks to Pastor Mike Dodson for his ministry, and Jeremy Carter for leading the TOLM praise team in worship. We love our pastors/ministers!



**2026
YEAR OF
THE
PASTOR**





World Missions & Evangelism

Wes Galford

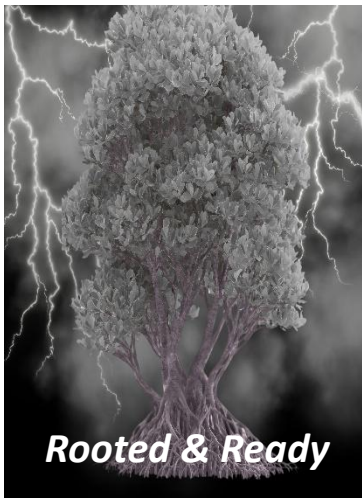


Thank You!

What a joy it is to welcome spring! This season surrounds us with a sense of renewal and freshness. Warmer days begin to unfold, flowers bloom, and leaves emerge on the trees. Even the familiar scent of freshly cut grass reminds us that new life is all around. As we celebrate Easter, we are invited to bask in the life-giving truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; He is alive forevermore.

When I reflect on the freshness of the Gospel, my heart is filled with gratitude to be part of the IPHC family, a people who deeply love the Gospel and prioritize sending through generosity. I was truly humbled by the incredible participation in all of the Great Commission Meals. Thank you for helping make them such a meaningful success. Now, we look ahead with faith and determination to our 2026 goal of \$250,000. With God's help and the continued generosity of the IPHC family, I believe this goal is not only attainable, but can be exceeded.





We are also thrilled to share that our first *Rooted & Ready* gathering was a great success. Rooted in God’s Word and ready to serve, this ministry is designed for young adults ages 18–25 who sense a call to ministry. In the midst of life’s challenges and uncertainties, God is still calling young men and women to step forward with bold and unashamed surrender.

Rooted & Ready exists to equip and empower this next generation to deepen their relationship with God, develop their spiritual gifts, build meaningful community, and actively serve within the Body of Christ. Our heart is to create spaces where young adults can learn together, grow together, and serve together. During our March 28 gathering at New Life in Roanoke, we experienced a powerful time of worship, the Word, and prayer, followed by a meaningful Q&A over a shared meal. It was a rich time of connection and spiritual growth. I eagerly anticipate all that God is going to do in each

location.





ROOTED AND READY

Rooted in God's Word and Ready to Serve

AGES 18-25
Worship
Word
Prayer
Food and Q & A

Mar 28
New Life
Christian
Ministries

5745 Airport
Road NW,
Roanoke, VA
24012

April 17
**Iglesia Nueva
Vida
Pentecostal**

**3051 Tasha
Circle
Harrisonburg,
VA 22801**

May 8
Life Changers
Christian
Center

2010 W. Ridge
Road
Wytheville, VA
24382

May 15
Voice
of
Praise

9952 New
Hope Road
Bluefield, WV
24701



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
WES GALFORD
APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
WORLD MISSIONS & EVANGELISM DIRECTOR
WESGALFORD@APPCONF.ORG



Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our partnership with The Awakening to host "The Call" on campus August 14-16, 2026. This event is designed specifically for young adults ages 18-25 with a focus on ministry calling and development. It will be a time marked by powerful worship, dynamic preaching, inspiring breakout sessions, and intentional connection. Please have your young adults register today! **The first 65 students from the Appalachian Conference that registers will receive a 100% scholarship.**



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.



August 14 - 16, 2026
Appalachian Conference

For more information

www.appconf.org
540.674.4131 ext. 207



DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES



As we step into this new season, we are reminded that God is always at work, bringing renewal, calling people deeper, and raising up the next generation for His purposes. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is still moving today, stirring hearts and transforming lives. Let us not simply celebrate the freshness of spring but fully embrace the fresh work God is doing among us. Together, with faith, generosity, and unwavering commitment, we can step into all that He has prepared; believing that the best is not behind us, but still ahead. We are called to serve, designed to build; until the last one hears.



PARTNERING WITH YOU!

LOCAL CHURCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
REAL MINISTRY. REAL MENTORS. REAL IMPACT.

APPLY NOW!



FEEL CALLED TO MINISTRY?

AGES 18-25

LEARN, LEAD, AND GROW THROUGH OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
WES GALFORD
MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM DIRECTOR
540-674-4131 EXT. 203
WESGALFORD@APPCONF.ORG

DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES





Discipleship Ministries



Ron Fredericks

www.appconf.org

**THE SLOSS FAMILY
and
APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
presents**

THE FIRST ANNUAL

REV. JERRY SLOSS

Memorial GOLF Tournament

May 22, 2026



**Blue Ridge Country Club
211 Blue Ridge Country Club Lane
Galax, VA**

**All proceeds will help provide
Camp Maranatha scholarships**

**for youth who want to attend but may not have
the financial means. Our goal is to sponsor 100
young people, giving them the opportunity to
grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and
experience the life-changing impact of Camp
Maranatha.**

Reverend Jerry Sloss faithfully served the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and the Appalachian Conference for more than 40 years, ministering in churches in Bluefield, Merrimac, and Bain Chapel. He had a deep passion for reaching young people and sharing the love of Christ.

Pastor Sloss started youth outreach ministries, such as a bus ministry and Ambassadors for Christ, while also championing the importance of Girls' Auxiliary. These ministries helped introduce countless young people to the Gospel.

He also served many summers at Camp Maranatha as Head Camp Counselor, mentoring campers and building relationships that often lasted a lifetime. Many who knew him went on to answer the call to ministry.

Pastor Sloss believed no young person should miss camp because of financial hardship. This tournament continues that legacy—helping ensure the next generation can experience the same life-changing opportunity.

Registration



**\$300 team/\$75
per person**

**SPONSOR a
HOLE for \$100**

Contact: Eddie Sloss: 540.998.1211
edsloss73@gmail.com
DM Office: 540-674-4131 ext. 201
Email: dmsecretary1@aol.com



BLUE RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
211 BLUE RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB LANE
GALAX, VIRGINIA



ONE WEEK CAN CHANGE A LIFE

MAY 22, 2026



**1ST ANNUAL
 REV. JERRY SLOSS
 MEMORIAL
 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

GOLF FOR A CAUSE:

All proceeds will help provide Camp Maranatha scholarships for youth who want to attend but may not have the financial means. Our goal is to sponsor 100 young people, giving them the opportunity to grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the life-changing impact of Camp Maranatha.

PARTICIPANTS WILL ENJOY:

- ◆ 18 holes of golf
(Shotgun start at 10:00 a.m.)
- ◆ Green fees and riding carts
- ◆ Lunch and Snacks Provided
- ◆ Prizes Awarded



**REGISTRATION
 INFORMATION**

**\$300 team
 \$75 per person**

SPONSOR A HOLE

\$100

**DM DISCIPLESHIP
 MINISTRIES**

For More Information Contact

Eddie Sloss: 540.998.1211

Discipleship Ministries
 540.674.4131 ext. 201

JOIN US!

**PINEWOOD DERBY
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**



- Check-in, Pit time, and weigh-in will be 8:00-9:30 AM
- Racing will begin at 10:00 AM
- Register in person or online:
Registration Fee- \$10.00, second car-\$2.00



Freddie Sweet
Appalachian Conference Boys' Ministries Director

- ☎ (276) 233-8983
- 🌐 www.appconf.org/events
- ✉ applaconfmrr@gmail.com

**APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
BOYS' MINISTRIES CAMP-OUT**

OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

CAMP MARANATHA, DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

**ACTIVITIES: CLIMBING TOWER, GO-CARTS, ARCHERY,
WORSHIP, THE WORD AND MORE!**

**ONLY
\$30**

INCLUDES MEALS & LODGING...

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION CHECK: <https://appconf.org/boys-ministry>



CAMP MARANATHA

ONE WEEK CAN CHANGE A LIFE

MATTHEW 20:28 "JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"

SERVE

CAMP MARANATHA 26

**Early Registration Deadline
MAY 8**

<https://appconf.org/campmaranatha>

**High School Week
(Grades 9 - 12)**

Speaker

**Trevon Winfield
June 14 - 19, 2026**



**Middle School Week
(Grades 6 - 8)**

Speaker

**Woody Burpo
June 21 - 26, 2026**



**Elementary Week
(Grades 1 - 5)**

Speaker

**Heather Reynolds
June 28 - July 2, 2026**



CAMP MARANATHA

ONE WEEK CAN CHANGE A LIFE



**REGISTER
NOW**



**APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
CAMPGROUNDS**
Dublin, VA 24084



Questions, call:
540-674-4131 ext. 201

<https://appconf.org/campmaranatha>

JOIN OUR

TEAM!

Register To Be A Camp Worker Now!

Volunteer For One or All!

**High School Week
(Grades 9 - 12)**

June 14-19, 2026



**Middle School Week
(Grades 6-8)**

June 21-26, 2026



**Elementary School Week
(Grades 1-5)**

June 28 - July 2, 2026



MATTHEW 20:28 "JESUS DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"

SERVE

CAMP MARANATHA 26



Encore Senior Ministries
Visit
Charleston, SC
April 28-30

COST

Single: \$929 per person

Double: \$779 per person

Triple: \$749 per person

Quad: \$729 per person



Patriots Point



Magnolia Plantation

**YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET A SEAT!!!!
 CALL 540.674.4131 EXT. 201**



Spirit of Carolina



Palmetto Carriage Ride



**For more information, please
 contact N.R. and Sarah Taylor**

276-620-3214

**SAVE
 THE
 DATE**

**DM DISCIPLESHIP
 MINISTRIES**



**DISCIPLESHIP
 MINISTRIES
 FAIR**

10:00 – 3:00

**AUGUST 22
 2026**

**COME SEE WHAT OUR
 MINISTRIES
 ARE ALL ABOUT!**

**CONFERENCE
 CAMPGROUND**

**5905
 Maranatha
 Street
 Dublin, VA**

**7 Pillars of Discipleship
 Bishop Scott Hampton**

**Presentation
 and Q&A on
 Discipleship/Social
 Issue Concerns as
 Pastors and Parents**

DM DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES



APPALACHIAN CONFERENCE
GOLDEN EAGLE ENCORE MINISTRIES

FEATURING
THE
SOUTHERN
GOSPEL
MUSIC OF

McKamey Legacy



SPRING
RALLY



11:00
A.M.



PREACHING
BY
BISHOP
CHRIS
THOMPSON

LOCATION : CAMP MARANATHA TABERNACLE
5847 Oak Grove Ave, Dublin, Va, 24084

FOR MORE INFO CALL : (540) 674-4131





Flourish

2 CORINTHIANS 8:7

September 11-13, 2026
Girls ages 9-17

Appalachian Conference Campground
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

 5905 Maranatha Street, Dublin, VA



REGISTER HERE!





Women's Ministries

Tammy Porter



Pastors' Wives' Retreat 2026

Join us for a time of prayer, devotion, discussion and connection! We will also hear from Dr. Crystal Burton about health tips for ministry and menopause.

SPEAKER: SHARON ATKINSON



Register Now!



**PIGEON FORGE, TN
MAY 6 - 8**

For questions or more information, please contact Tammy Porter at pastortammy511@yahoo.com or 276-620-7549.



DR. CRYSTAL BURTON

If your husband pastors a church in the Appalachian Conference, you are cordially invited to a life-changing retreat.

Over the years we have had pastors' wives approach our Women's Ministries team asking if we could have something special for the wives to come together for fellowship and encouragement!

We have heard you and this year we are making this happen.

Join my team, our First Lady, Gloria Meadors and our special guest, Sharon Atkinson, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, May 6 through May 8, for an intimate time of food, fellowship, encouragement, prayer and lots laughter as we come together just for you.

We will be staying in a beautiful cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains, with all the amenities, including our own private indoor pool, as well as an outdoor theater space.

We will have a time of prayer, devotion, a panel discussion and also our very own Crystal Burton will be sharing some health tips on ministry and menopause! We will also give you plenty of time to shop and enjoy all that Pigeon Forge has to offer.

We have very limited space, and if this is something you are interested in, please don't hesitate to confirm your spot quickly!



We are so excited to bring this opportunity to our Conference.

Being a pastor's wife isn't always easy and not everyone understands the road you walk. We believe this week will be life changing for you and you will be encouraged and strengthened in your ministry. We want you to know how special you are to the Kingdom of God and to us as well.

We have tried to make this week as affordable as possible, with a price of \$300. This includes 3 nights in the cabin and all meals, if you choose to eat in.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Tennessee! Don't let this opportunity pass. Register today!



HEAVENLY PORTALS OPEN & CLOSE

Terms such as portals, gates, and even windows represent places or moments where God's presence, angels, and blessings are released from the heavenly realms.

Those who experience the blessings of these portals are empowered and encouraged to pursue God's purposes. Struggles that were once a hindering factor begin to disappear. New strength, joy and peace are infused into the very depths of the souls of these individuals.

Consider the dream of Jacob's ladder. At Bethel, Jacob slept with his head upon a stone. And he dreamed of a ladder set up on the earth and the other end reached to heaven. Angels of God ascended and descended upon it. (Genesis 28:12)

This encounter had a profound effect upon Jacob. When he woke up from his sleep he responded to the dream. "And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the GATE OF HEAVEN" (Genesis 28:17 KJV)!

His words were followed with action. He built an altar and proclaimed his intent to tithe. "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that you give me I will surely give the tenth unto you" (Genesis 28:22 KJV).

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Another electrifying encounter was noted when Jesus rose up from the waters of baptism.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the HEAVENS WERE OPENED unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: and lo a VOICE FROM HEAVEN, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16,17 KJV).

Notice that the Spirit lit upon Him, and a VOICE confirmed His identity!

THE LORD TALKED TO MOSES

The Spirit descended when Moses went into the Tabernacle to worship, and pray.

"And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses" (Exodus 33:9 KJV).

This sight had an impact upon the children of Israel. When they saw the cloudy presence stand at the door of the tabernacle, they worshipped at their own tent doors. (Exodus 33:10)

Our desires and prayers are for God's Spirit to descend upon the church services today in this powerful manner!

WHEN PETER PREACHED TO THE GENTILES

Cornelius had an encounter with an angel which led to the invitation for Peter to preach.

The people were hungry for the Holy Spirit. They soaked in every word that Peter preached. Then suddenly, the Holy Spirit fell on all during the message.

“While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Ghost FELL on all them which heard the word” (Acts 10:44 KJV).

CLOSED HEAVENS

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were responsible for a closed heaven over Israel. Their sins brought a severe judgment of drought. Jezebel influenced Ahab to give Baal equal place with God. He even built a temple to Baal with a wooden image of the Canaanite goddess Asherah. Jezebel urged Ahab to oppose the worship of the Lord, and destroy His altars, and kill his prophets.

God arranged a meeting with Elijah and King Ahab. And Ahab accused Elijah of bringing judgment upon the land. “And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel” (1 Kings 18:17 KJV)?

Quickly, Elijah set the record straight by informing the king that the sins of following Baal and forsaking the Lord were the true causes of the drought. (v. 18)

Recall the showdown with Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The one who released fire from heaven would be declared the true God. Of course, no fire fell from heaven when the prophets of Baal prayed. However, when Elijah prayed, fire came down and consumed the wood, the stones and licked up the water in the trenches. (2 Kings 18:38)

Elijah’s job was not over. Revealing the true God and bringing the nation to repentance was the first step. But the heavens remained closed and no rain fell.

Elijah took his servant and went to the top of Mt. Carmel. With earnest groans and his face between his knees, he prayed. After his first prayer, he sent his servant to look towards the sea. The servant came back and stated that no clouds were seen. (1 Kings 18:41- 46) Six times the servant returned with a report that no clouds were seen.

Then finally, after the seventh round of prayer, the servant returned and said that he saw a cloud about the size of a man’s hand. (1 Kings 18:44) Out of that small opening in the heavens, a great storm arose and poured rain upon the nation. (v. 45)

Repentance had been performed. Now it would require persistence in prayer on the behalf of Elijah. And Elijah did not give up. He prayed until the heavens opened!



- 2 Boys' Ministries Pinewood Derby**
- 7 National Day of Prayer**
- 8 Early Bird Youth Camp Registration Deadline**
- 9 Educational Fellowship w/Dr. Burton**
- 10 Mother's Day**
- 16 Senior Rally**
- 18 Conference Work Day**
- 22 Rev. Jerry Sloss Memorial Golf Tournament**
- 24 Day of Pentecost**
- 25 Memorial Day – Office Closed**