

Our strategic theme for 2025 is 'Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365'. This theme defines the 2025 King Holiday Observance events and programming while serving as a compass for all the work we will do this upcoming calendar year and beyond. The pioneering work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. demonstrated that Kingian Nonviolence (Nonviolence365™) is the sustainable solution to injustice and violence in our world, ultimately leading to the creation of the Beloved Community, where injustice ceases, and love prevails.

The King Center welcomes and invites you to join this movement for a new future as we strive to cultivate a Beloved Community Mindset, and ultimately transform unjust systems.

Church Information

CHURCH INVITATION

NEW HOPE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 ~ 7:00 PM

Church Training:

Training for Broadcast, Sound, Preparing Messages for Radio Broadcast, and Livestreaming Ministries will take place soon. If you are interested in being trained, let the church secretary know.

Bethesda Newsletter

We would like to place all Anniversaries, Birthdays, Graduations and Special Achievements and church information in the Newsletter, but we need your help.

Submit to church secretary - Sister Barbara Jean Holmes email: bethesdachristianfellowship36@gmail.com

Honor Roll Students ~ Please Submit a Photo.

December Sermon Recap

December 1st ~ Concerning the Lord's Table

Deuteronomy 6:14-15; I Corinthians 10:21-22; I Corinthians 11:21-31

December 8th ~ I Am Content

Philippians 4:10-14; Galatians 5:16

December 15th ~ Almost - Until - Then!

Psalms 73:1, 2; 16-17; Romans 8:28

December 22nd ~ That Name

John 1:17; Acts 11:31, 6; Philippians 2:4

December 29th ~ Informed Praise

Psalms 46; Psalm 150:6; Psalm 33; Psalm 147:1; Psalm 18:3

December 31st ~ Watch Night

Go Back Another Way

Matthew 2:1-12



SAY IT LOUD

ESSAY THEME:

"LOCAL LEGENDS"

- Open to Bethesda Christian Fellowship Students Grades 4th through 12th
- Must be written by the child
- Deadline for Submission of Essays - January 26, 2025.
- Date for Presentation of Essays to begin- To Be Announced.

Stamp



BETHESDA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Post Office Box 515
Saint Helena Island, South Carolina 29920



2025 Holy Convocation

"Realizing Richer Relationships"
I John 3:18-21

JANUARY 6-10 at 7PM Nightly

Bethesda Christian Fellowship
32-36 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Saint Helena Island, South Carolina

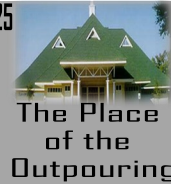


Bishop Kenneth C. Doe

The Bethesda Herald

A Ministry of Bethesda Christian Fellowship

January Issue 2025



The Place of the Outpouring

From The Bishop's Desk

Then It Came To Me...

How much is enough?"

A challenge being faced by Christianity everywhere is the church's relationship with the world. How should we relate to the world? Do we have any responsibility to the world? If so, how is that carried out? Then, what should be the world's influence on the church?

Without a doubt, the church is directed and expected to influence the world. The Word of God teaches us that there is a strict line of separation between the church and the world. Those who are not God's belong to their father, the devil. The church is obliged to be "salt and light." These substances do influence their surroundings. Salt and light bring change to any situation. Besides this, the church is commissioned to take to the world the good news of the liberating work of Jesus Christ.

Christians must reflect on our effectiveness in influencing the world. We must also, with equal vigilance, assess the influence of the world on the church. Let us be clear on this matter: there are technologies, money matters and other concerns in the world which are available to the church and the world. While the world will use these concerns to glorify its father - the devil, the church must capitalize on the possibilities these concerns give for bringing glory to our father - Jehovah.

With that understood, we must still answer this matter: How much influence should the world have on the church? The answer is simple ~ None!!! That answer probably brings some resistance and scorn from some saints. However, the truth remains.

Consider these truths:

- ◆ II Corinthians 6:14~"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light and darkness?"
- ◆ I Corinthians 5:6-"Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

So, "How much is enough?" None, simply none. We must be guarded against the influences of language, dress, standards of conduct or any matters that the world embraces. If it pleases the devil, it cannot glorify God, our Father.

Let our minds be settled. Let us not continue to go back and forth over what is already settled in heaven.

Any defilement by the world hinders our walk with God and fellowship among believers. Expect the Holy Spirit to empower us as we seek to please our Lord.

Shalom, my Friends,
Bishop Kenneth C. Doe

CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION REVISITED

Our church's Mission Statement and Vision are shared again in this issue. The beginning of the calendar year seems an appropriate time to focus on these matters. Any Christian church or fellowship must have a clear, Holy Bible generated Mission Statement. This might be compared to the heart in the human body or the engine in an automobile. It is most essential. The Mission Statement is the general, overarching goal of the church.

The Vision might be called the meat on the bones. The Vision includes those particular matters (Visions) that the Lord wills for that church to embrace in fulfilling its goal. The function of every branch of ministry in our church must be rooted in this church's Mission Statement and Vision. There are to be no independent satellites in the local church. So, while each ministry works out its particular function through those called or given to that work, all of the parts are integral to the one body. Prayerfully read and be joined (again) with these critical components of our church.

BETHESDA'S MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian fellowship, we seek to fulfill the biblical mandate to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. It is our sincere intent to participate with the Lord in the salvation of the lost, the reclaiming of backsliders, the maturing of our fellowship, and serving as "salt and light" in our community and the world.

As agents for God in His reconciling purpose for the world, we are committed to exploring in depth the theological bases the Holy Bible offers for Christian World Mission. In pursuing this, we affirm the relatedness of the church's Mission to every phase of life and work of the church. Consequently, it is imperative that the entire congregation be involved in our Church's Mission. We engage to maintain an effective education program regarding this mission.

*cf. *Matthew 28:19-20, 4:19; Mark 1:17; Acts 1:8, 2:38; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:13-22*

GOD'S VISION FOR BETHESDA

"Without a Vision, the People Perish" (Proverbs 29:18) With a view toward understanding the VISION proper, it seems wise and necessary to express the connection between our church's mission statement and "God's Vision" for this house. The mission statement is the overarching, general expression of God's will for this church. Evangelism-the making of disciples, Christian Education- providing sound biblical teaching for sustaining and maturing in the Lord, and an on-going openness to the continual move of the Spirit of God as revealed in His Word, provide the understanding, the umbrella under which the Lord orchestrates specific directives to individual churches and ministries. So, in the local church, the instructions/directives given by the Lord through the Pastor constitute God's VISION for that local assembly. The VISION, while specific, does not necessarily include every step in bringing forth each aspect of the VISION. Many things are worked out among church leadership and the congregation.

In the VISION, the Lord gives the rallying point (s)

around which all believers in that church are to convene. So, through God's sovereign will, He orders the steps of each believer (Psalm 37:23) to participate in His plan (VISION) for that place. Here is an illustration that may better express or clarify the source and function of the VISION.

It is the Lord who takes His leader for that fellowship to that certain place. Here, that leader is shown "the way" to heaven, our destination. Between where that fellowship stands and its destination, the Lord reveals His will for those certain ministries that this church must implement, support, and/or work out. This revelation of specifics (the VISION) is a direct fleshing out of those general affirmations of the church's Mission Statement.

Also, the Lord's revelation of His VISION for that house need not include every matter between the present and destiny. After all, seasons of ministry change. The work of one season should set the framework for the VISION for the next.

So, accurate assessment of the VISION for the present age bridges from those ministries already functioning through those being called forth into existence.

The next article in this series will give an overview of existing ministries as well as those being called into existence by our Lord. This article and the next share a comprehensive understanding of where we have been brought and where the Lord is taking us (the VISION). We are careful to remember that all Glory, Honor, and Praise belong to our Lord alone. While encouraged and humbled by His Grace and Mercy, we are "Walking in Excellence."

Fulfilling Our Mission and Vision Through Ministries

Seeking to understand God's unfolding plan for our church family, we build on the Mission and Vision Statements offered earlier. How are those general sentences of the Mission Statement and the more specific assignments of the Vision being fleshed out among us? It would probably help if we would consult the last issue of *The Herald* and acquaint ourselves with these important items.

This issue shares a list of ministries currently in operation. Please know that individual or group listings do not necessarily reflect all

items or acts of ministry occurring in that ministry. This list gives indications of the parameter or scope of ministries we are currently effecting. During future issues individual ministries will be highlighted. We, as members of the family or fellowship of believers, must continue to seek ways and be open to the leading of our LORD concerning ministries. Through dedicated Godly leaders, committed followers / participants, commitment to the ongoing maturing of our fellowship, and relentless dedication to sharing the gospel message locally and abroad, we remain ready to hear and heed the voice of God. We remain consistently involved in becoming all He desires us to be. So, those ministries already listed are the core of current involvement. We must know, though, that our LORD'S Vision for this house continues to be revealed.

Our LORD desires the completion of our next phase of building. This facility, whether it is called a family life center, activities center or whatever, will permit much ministry development. Consider this: Bethesda Academy, a graded school, will be housed; an industrial kitchen, supporting the school and other community outreach, will be included; our physical plant could then support clothing storage and a food pantry; seniors of our fellowship and community could enjoy a meeting space; afterschool programs will be housed; health and vision screenings for the young and old could be accommodated; children and seniors in need could receive grooming perks with our blessings. The possibilities continue to flow. Some of these things will begin in our current plant. We will soon develop and initiate a "weekend hotline." This will be a resource for teens who may be out and about, finding themselves in need of counsel. "The last stop" ministry will offer compassion, the gospel, and a snack to those in the streets who need and desire to clarify things before going home. Also, the LORD desires us to be a location offering Bible College and Seminary instruction for those desiring and needing it. We must also seek to develop, implement or simply house ministries that focus on helping under-employed persons and single parents needing to improve their employability by gaining skills for better employment. So, you see the future holds much work. What is currently in place is in no way

conclusive. We continue to seek God's face concerning new ministries.

Shalom, my Friends,
Bishop Kenneth C. Doe

Bethesda's Ministries

- Administration
- Advance Directive ministry
- Altar Workers Ministry
- Audio/Video Ministry
- Bethesda Herald Newsletter
- Bible Study
- Brotherhood
- Deacons Ministry
- Deaconess Ministry
- Episodic Evangelistic Outreach Ministry
- Gospel Drill Team Ministry
- Intercessory Prayer
- Jail and Prison Ministries
- Junior and Senior Praise Dancers
- Kingdom Covenant Ministry
- Kitchen Ministry
- Male Chorus
- Marriage Ministry
- Mime Ministry
- Ministry of the Word (Spoken Word)
- Missionary Ministry
- New Convert/Member Ministry
- Ongoing Community Outreach Ministry
- Scholarship Ministry
- Senior Sanctuary Choir
- Senior Ushers
- Singles Ministry
- Sunbeam Choir
- Sunday School
- Transportation Ministry
- Trustees Ministry
- Tuesday Evening Academy
- Vacation Bible School
- Voices of Victory
- Wednesday Evening Academy
- Women Chorus
- Women of Excellence Ministry
- Young Men Young Women
- Youth Choir
- Youth Crusade/Revival
- Youth Ushers

IN PERSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2nd and 4th Sundays